FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Middle East & North Africa

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MATERIALS RELATING TO OPERATIONS IN ISRAEL

Communique on Tel Aviv Operation

JN120610Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A spokesman of the Palestinian revolution forces issued several communiques yesterday on the fedayeen operation carried out by the Arab revolutionaries inside the occupied land. In the first communique, the spokesman said:

In consolidation of our steadfast people's struggle in the occupied land and in loyalty to the sacrifices and the shed blood of the innocent martyrs, the Dayr Yasin group carried out the martyr Kamal 'Udwan operation inside the occupied land. The group began the operation at 1840 last night in the coastal area between Haifa and Tel Aviv. The enemy deployed large numbers of the Israeli army and police force. The forces of the Palestinian revolution totally destroyed two trucks carrying Zionist enemy soldiers.

In a subsequent communique the spokesman said that the Zionist forces tried to surround the forces of the revolution but the attempt failed when the Dayr Yasin group stormed its way out. The group carried out a large-scale deployment operation using the enemy vehicles which it was able to commandeer. Most of the roads between Haifa and Tel Aviv were blocked by the group.

In another communique, the spokesman affirmed that the Dayr Yasin group attacked all the targets near it. A battle took place near the Et-Tira township near Haifa, killing or wounding more than 15 Zionist soldiers. The group seized control of the bridge there and of one Zionist enemy vehicle.

A clash ensued between a group of revolutionaries and the enemy forces in the (Kafr Suwaylim) area, killing a number of enemy personnel. As a result, the enemy deployed large numbers of vehicles and forces by helicopters. The area was lit up with flares.

Despite all this, the group of revolutionaries continued the operation according to the set plan. The spokesman said that one of the groups of the revolution attacked its targets near the sports club north of Tel Aviv on the [name indistinct] crossroad. The group destroyed an enemy truck carrying at least 18 soldiers.

Another group clashed with the enemy on the Kfar Saba road north of Tel Aviv inflicting an unspecified number of casualties on the enemy.

The enemy tried to close the approaches to occupied Tel Aviv. The spokesman said that the Zionist enemy redeployed its forces several times as a result of the confusion which beset him. The enemy also deployed more troops in the area.

The Dayr Yasin group carried out large-scale diversionary operations using enemy vehicles commandeered by the revolutionaries. The operations covered various localities in the area. One of the groups attacked (Kiryat 'Ata) inflicting losses on the enemy; another group attacked the roadblocks put up by the enemy. A third group attacked the Carmel area inflicting losses on the enemy and destroying his installations.

Al-'Asifah Communique

JN121700Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1628 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brothers: Military Communique No 8. The military spokesman of the general command of the Al-'Asifah forces has stated the following:

The Dayr Yasin group forces continued to operate in the specified target area despite the combing operations which continued throughout last night in the various areas of the Palestinian plain between Haifa and Tel Aviv. Several clashes ensued near Herzliyya and (Ramt 'Astharun) between one of the supporting groups led by sister Dalal and the Zionist army forces supported by helicopters. The group successfully confronted the enemy force in a confrontation battle that lasted more than 4 hours.

The commander of the supporting group was martyred. Before her death, martyr Dalal hurled her last two grenades at the enemy forces.

Another group managed to break through the siege and arrived safely at its base inside the occupied territories. The other groups [words indistinct] according to the set plan.

Bus Explosion Reported

JN121709Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1634 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A short while ago we received the following: In implementation of the orders issued by the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces to a number of interior forces groups to conduct operations of support for the Dayr Yasin force, which carried out the heroic confrontation operation against the enemy forces yesterday and up until the time of this statement's issuance, 1430 today, 12 March, in the area between Haifa and Tel Aviv, a fedayeen force moved to work in the area of Bet She'an. It engaged in a battle there with a military force of the enemy and managed to blow up a big bus after its civilian passengers had been forced to get off. The force returned to its base safely.

Carter's Statements Denounced

JN121834Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1640 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] An official source of the Palestinian revolution command has announced the following:

Immediately after the bold and heroic operation our revolutionaries carried out against the Zionist forces in the depth of the occupied territories, U.S. President Jimmy Carter quickly denounced and condemned this operation, making statements hostile to our people.

The Palestinian revolution command sees in these statements of President Carter against the struggle of our people and their heroic revolutionaries an aggressive act directed against our Palestinian people and their just cause. The revolution command also sees in these statements a completely plain and blatant bias in favor of the Zionist terrorist viewpoint. This means the belittling of the rights of our people and the resolutions of the international community, which has translated these rights with such clarity that they cannot be doubted.

We wonder about President Carter's reason for rushing to attack the operations of our heroic revolutionaries, while he has not reacted to the continuous and organized terrorist and savage operations which are being carried out by the terrorist Begin and the Israeli military faction against our people in the occupied homeland, the villages in southern Lebanon and the unarmed Palestinian camps, which have been shelled by Israeli planes hundreds of times, some even being wiped out.

These operations [words indistinct] the planned and organized Zionist terrorism since the massacre of Dayr Yasin, which was carried out by Menahem Begin. The Palestinian revolution command, while strongly denouncing his biased U.S. stand against the struggle and revolutionaries of our people, affirms that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle in all its forms, the foremost of which is the armed struggle. This armed struggle is a right recognized by the UN Decolonization Committee, and it will continue until the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their national soil, are achieved.

The U.S. stands and statements, which are extremely hostile to the aspirations, hopes and struggles of our people and nation in their civilized struggle against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism, will not influence the march of our people and revolution.

The Palestinian revolution and people have (?got used to) this biased stand of the U.S. presidents, a stand which takes Israel's side. Carter is no better than other presidents in his challenge to the feelings, rights, hopes and aspirations of our Arab nation and our struggling Palestinian Arab people. It is a revolution until victory.

Precautions Against Reprisals

NC121037 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 12 March--A responsible Palestinian source in Beirut today said that several measures have been adopted in anticipation of any Israeli reprisal for the Palestinian fedayeen operation last night. The source said that these measures include security and other military aspects, particularly in southern Lebanon.

The source added that special measures have been adopted in refugee camps to protect them against any possible attack. Fatah yesterday claimed responsibility for the operation which took place in Israel last night.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, is expected to arrive in Beirut today from Damascus to discuss these measures with the resistance leaders. 'Arafat cut short his visit to East Germany and returned to Damascus yesterday.

INA Cites Palestinian Statement

JN121049Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 12 March--The reports of the heroic fedayeen operation carried out by Palestinian fighters inside occupied Palestine last night overshadowed all other press reports today and occupied the main headlines in the newspapers and other news media in Lebanon. The papers described the operation, which was named after martyr Kamal 'Udwan, as one of the biggest and most daring fedayeen operations carried out in the occupied territory.

The papers published the full details of the large-scale battles fought by the fedayeen groups [as received] between Haifa and Tel Aviv and the terror which these battles created among enemy ranks, to the extent that the enemy declared a curfew all along the 40-km coastal trip and Begin and Dayan threatened revenge. These papers said that according to the initial figures, 30 of the enemy were killed and 70 others were wounded.

The Palestinian revolution last night issued a political statement on the operation saying that the operation affirms the revolution's determination to commemorate martyr hero Kamal 'Udwan, the commander of the revolution's operations inside the occupied territory who fell as a result of the enemy's treacherous bullets on 13 April 1973 alongside martyrs Yusuf an-Najjar and Kamal Nasir in Beirut.

The statement says that this heroic and daring operation is taking place at this time to affirm the Palestinian people's determination to continue the armed struggle against Zionist arrogance and occupation. It symbolizes the continuation of the struggle and the rejection of the surrender solutions which the capitulatory forces are trying to impose on our Arab nation and our heroic Palestinian people. The statement also affirms that the operation reflects the will and the determination of the struggler peoples to continue their just struggle against the Zionist occupation and those enemies of our Arab nation and our Palestinian Arab people who deal with the enemy.

'Beginning of a Series'

LD121332Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Interview granted to Sa'dallah Naqil by Abu Hassan, PLO representative in Algiers--recorded]

[Test] [Question] Brother Abu Hassan, PLO representative in Algiers, can we say that the heroic operation carried out yesterday by the Palestinian fedayeen in Tel Aviv and the battles that are still raging are the start of a new strategy adopted by the Palestinian revolution following the conferences of steadfastness and confrontation in Tripoli and Algiers?

[Answer] The Kamal 'Udwan operation carried out by the Dayr Yasin forces of Fatah, which operate within our Palestinian homeland, is the beginning of a series of such operations to be carried out throughout occupied Palestine. These operations are aimed at the escalation of the struggle of our Palestinian people which is growing to thwart all the capitulationist designs in the Arab area and frustrate the visit of President as-Sadat to our occupied homeland and his meetings with the Zionist leaders. They are also to strike at the Zionist enemy to bring about the complete liberation of Palestine.

This operation by Fatah inside occupied Palestine, and which is still continuing inside occupied Palestine, has been so strong and its impact on the Zionist enemy has been so great that it forced Begin and Moshe Dayan and the Zionist defense minister to cancel their visits to the United States. It also prompted the Zionist enemy to declare a state of emergency inside occupied Palestine.

Fatah has so far issued seven communiques on the operations announcing a large number of operation carried out by the Dayr Yasin forces inside occupied Palestine. In its seventh communique issued this morning, Fatah affirms that the fighting deep inside the occupied Palestinian territory is continuing and that our Palestinian forces are still striking at enemy position and are seizing mechanized vehicles in more than one area. The Fatah Palestinian fighters have seized the mechanized vehicles of the Zionist enemy and are using them now in fierce battles against the Zionist enemy.

The Dayr Yasin forces of Fatah have destroyed a major bridge near Haifa, the Tirat Haifa. The bridge has been completely destroyed. They have also destroyed two enemy transporters full of Zionist Israeli soldiers. They attacked a number of positions in a settlement close to the area where our forces are positioned. Our forces are still clashing with the Zionist enemy forces.

Undoubtedly, this operation constitutes a blow to Carter and to Begin and to As-Sadat--those who are plotting against the Palestinian cause and against the Arab nation. This operation is the biggest reply dealt by our Palestinian people to their plotting and their attempt to liquidate our cause. This operation tells the imperialist plotters--the Americans, the Zionists and As-Sadat; The Palestinians will remain steadfast and fight in their homeland. They will continue to face the Zionist occupation and will not tolerate the capitulatory solutions As-Sadat and the Zionists and the imperialists want to impose on us.

This operation stems from a position of steadfastness and challenge, particularly following the Tripoli and Algiers conferences, where the conferees stressed the importance of the continuation of steadfastness and struggle and of the supporting of the armed struggle inside occupied Palestine and to undermine all capitulatory solutions and to impose the solution, the Palestinian-progressive Arab solution and not the imperialist-Zionist solution.

Abu Iyad Statement

NC130830Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0813 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 13 March--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, the number two man in the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, has stressed that the coming days will witness further fedayeen operations deep in the occupied homeland.

In a statement published in the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today, he said that the recent fedayeen operation in the northern coastal area of occupied Palestine will be followed by other operations of equal force and size. He affirmed that the Palestinian resistance is capable of defeating plots concocted against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He also emphasized that the Palestinian resistance is prepared for all eventualities. He said: Our revolutionaries, who have defeated the arrogant Tel Aviv rulers are capable of confronting all eventualities. We will spare no efforts or sacrifice.

FATAH KUWAIT REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEWED BY QNA

NC121325Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 12 March--Salim az-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, the representative of the Palestinian national liberation movement--Fatah--in Kuwait and the gulf and the vice chairman of the Palestine National Council, has stated that the Palestinian resistance has accurate information that Israel is preparing to carry out a strong direct strike soon against the Palestinian resistance and Syria in southern Lebanon.

In an interview to the QNA Kuwait correspondent, he said the aim of the Israeli strike would be to liquidate the Palestinian question and the centers of rejection and to create several conflicting weak sectarian states in order to stir up even more disturbances than exist at present between the Arab deterrent forces and the isolationists and to isolate fraternal Egypt from the battle.

Salim az-Za'nun said that the talks PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had with Soviet leaders during his recent visit to Moscow were centered on the necessity of the Soviet Union's adopting a firm stand vis-a-vis this Israeli plan. He added that Moscow informed the Palestinian leadership that the Soviet Union will not remain idle this time if the resistance is subjected to such aggression.

Salim az-Za'nun said that Yasir 'Arafat will visit the gulf area states to brief them on the outcome of his trip to the Soviet Union and some socialist states.

He noted that the PLO has drawn up a complete list of transfers and changes among heads of its offices abroad. He said that part of these transfers have actually taken place and that the rest will be implemented soon on a gradual scale.

He added that it has been agreed in principle to convene the next session of the Palestine National Council around the beginning of April but the site and the agenda have not yet been decided.

On the recent attempts to assassinate some Palestinian resistance leaders, he said that several abortive attempts were recently made by certain hirelings. He accused Israel of these attempts and of being behind these plans.

YASIR 'ARAFAT MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO GDR

For reportage on the visit which began on 10 March by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the GDR, see the GDR section of the 10 and 13 March issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

'Arafat Returns to Beirut

JN120827Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, returned to Beirut last night following a tour of the Soviet Union and the GDR. 'Arafat held talks with Soviet and GDR officials dealing with the latest developments in the situation in the Arab region.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PALESTINIAN LEADERS REPORTED

NC111149Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 11 March--Quoting well-informed Palestinian sources, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today reports that 3 days ago the surveillance [ar-rasd] department of the Palestinian resistance movement arrested four persons in Beirut who had been assigned to assassinate some Palestinian resistance leaders, including Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, second in command in the Fatah movement, and Dr George Habash, leader of the PFLP.

The paper, which did not reveal the identity of these persons or the quarters to which they belong, says they admitted they had been instructed by certain quarters to plant bombs in several Fatah information and administrative offices in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon and to create alarm in Palestinian camps.

The paper says a sophisticated radio, large quantities of explosives, handgrenades and revolvers with silencers were discovered in the apartment of two of the four persons.

GULF PAPERS COMMENT ON FEDAYEEN OPERATION

NC1310117 Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 13 March--The Arabic language newspapers of the gulf today deal with the big operation carried out by Palestinian fedayeen north of Tel Aviv Saturday. This operation deeply shook occupied Palestine. In their editorials the papers stress that this courageous operation has affirmed that the acquisition of territory does not mean security. They call on Israeli leaders to review the question of territory and security.

The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB says that the fedayeen operation has affirmed to the world that peace without Palestinians cannot be achieved and that the Palestinian rifle continues to be stronger than all the plots and challenges to seize the rifle from the hands of the Palestinian struggler. The paper stresses that the Palestinian fedayeen by their daring operation wanted to tell a world which understands only the language of force that the rifle is still loaded and held by strong hands backed by a strong people who believe in the justice of their cause.

The Saudi newspaper AR-RIYAD asserts that the major fedayeen operation is a practical demonstration of the fact that the Israeli security theory is fragile and inoperative and that peace and security cannot be established through the occupation of territory. The only way to achieve peace is through having a sincere desire for it, abandoning hostile and expansionist aims and acknowledging the restoration of the occupied Arab territory and the right of the Palestinian people to their state and self-determination. The paper says that the Israeli leaders should review the question of territory and security, instead of planning reprisals as Menahem Begin and Defense Minister Weizman hinted at yesterday. The fedayeen attack against Israel took place while Israel was occupying the territory, and the important thing is that it was against the enemy's stronghold in the Palestinian territory that the enemy has occupied for 30 years.

The paper explains that the fedayeen operation confirms that territory cannot achieve security and that security cannot be achieved by occupying territory. No matter how long Israel's arms may be, there are longer and stronger arms than Israel's; namely, the arms of the Arab rights.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS says that the fedayeen operation was the natural response to Israel's obduracy and was a natural action on the part of the Palestinian revolution. The paper calls for further operations of this type to establish the identity of the Palestinian revolution in the eyes of the world and the masses as a serious revolution. The paper says that the Palestinian fedayeen operation has proved that Israel is deceiving itself about its ability to live in peace in the usurped territory and has taught Israel a lesson about the concept of peace.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM calls on the PLO to adopt the measures necessary to confront any Israeli reaction and reprisal. The paper expects Israel to launch a retaliatory action similar to the Entebbe operation or the assassination of three Palestinian leaders in Beirut in 1972. The paper stresses that the anticipated Israeli strike will be neither the first nor the last and that the Palestinian people have experienced this and will not change their struggle.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD says that the daring fedayeen operation was a blow to the Israeli illusionwhich has provoked the whole world, including even Israel's friends. These friends have become convinced recently that Israel is not serious about making peace based on justice but prefers to live under the slogan of peace based on security. The paper explains that the importance of the fedayeen operation lies in the fact that it has shaken the Israeli security theory from its foundation and has shown that such a theory is a mere cover to justify the occupation of territory and usurpation of the historical rights of the Palestinian people.

AL-ITTIHAD says that this operation has affirmed that there can be no peace in the Middle East without the Palestinians and that Begin and his terrorist methods could lead to further bloodshed in Palestinian territory itself and that the road to peace is not through expansion and annexation of territory.

KUWAIT

MINISTER COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN OPERATION IN ISRAEL

NC1214107 Doha QNA in Arabic 1315 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 12 March--'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has revealed that two letters have been recently exchanged between His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir of the state of Kuwait, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat regarding possible events in the Middle East and the developments of the Arab issue. In his message, Abu 'Ammar explains the possible effects of the current events on the Palestinian revolution.

Commenting on the fedayeen operation which the Palestinian resistance carried out yesterday, the Kuwaiti minister described it as "the natural and real work of the Palestinian revolution." He added that Kuwait will always support the Palestinian revolution in its effectiveness, its disciplining actions and the imposition of its presence and more importantly in placing the facts before the masses.

PAPERS GIVE REPORTS ON ISRAELI WAR PLAN

NC1013007 Doha QNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 10 March--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS in a dispatch from Beirut today reports that Israel has warned the Lebanese Government of the need to check what it called intensive Palestinian reinforcements in some villages on the Lebanese border. The paper says the U.S. ambassador in Beirut conveyed the Israeli warning to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis yesterday morning. The Israeli warning was coupled with military air activity along the border, suggesting that Israel was about to attack southern Lebanon.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH in a dispatch from Washington today reports that the United States has informed some Arab capitals of an Israeli war plan as a way out of the current political dilemma after Israel's stand regarding peace has been exposed. Quoting reliable diplomatic sources, the paper says that the U.S. Government has pledged to these capitals that it would prevent Israel from implementing its war decision. Quoting these sources, the paper notes that Lebanon would be the starting point of this war, which would then expand to include the Syrian front and then the Jordanian and the Egyptian fronts if developments warranted.

SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM WESTERN REGION WELCOMED

NC111116Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 11 March--Kuwait has welcomed the withdrawal of the Somali forces from the Western Somali region in order to end the fighting in the area.

The official sources have told the newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM that in return the other foreign forces in the area must withdraw and that the issue should be discussed within the framework of the OAU.

QATAR

HEIR APPARENT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI PAPERS

NC110933Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 March--Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, has expressed hope that the Arabs will end their differences and exchanges of abuses, accusations and peripheral conflicts. He affirmed the importance of Arab solidarity for restoring the usurped rights of the Palestinian people and the occupied Arab territory and for the unity of the Arabs' strength and cohesive will in peace and war, including their military, oil, manpower and other material resources.

In an interview published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM and the magazine AN-NAHDAH, he stressed that there is no alternative to war if the current peace neogtiations fail. He said the Arabs must prepare themselves through serene hearts among the Arab leaders and a clear Arab political atmosphere. He said that through collaboration and solidarity the Arabs can achieve the impossible and defeat the enemy.

The Qatari heir apparent and defense minister said that the Arab military industries organization is a successful Arab attempt to break the arms monopoly. It is essential for both war and the defense of peace for the Arabs to produce their own arms instead of relying totally upon the West or the East. He called on the other Arab states to support the organization, which is composed of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt and the UAE. He expressed hope that Kuwait will join the organization, saying: Having Kuwait with us would give us strength of considerable significance.

Commenting on gulf security, Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani emphasized the need to create security systems in the gulf and absolute cooperation in deeds, not words, among all concerned. In this respect he called for overcoming sensitivities which could drive every gulf state separately to seek, out of fear for its security, a strong ally among foreign powers which are motivated by certain ambitions or hatred and which would stir up nerves, imagination, whims and several sensitivities in the area.

He said: What we need in this area--being one gulf family with common historical, religious and national ties--is good faith, sincere intentions and deeds. We must eliminate delusions and peripheral differences, overcome sensitivities and obstruct anyone seeking to benefit from any split between brothers. He noted that the gulf area is now witnessing interference by powers struggling for their own interests in the area.

He called on the Arabs to realize the dimensions and negative aspects of such interference and urged the gulf family to be one in practice and deed, not just in words and protocol. He also called on the gulf family to achieve its security through confidence and trust among all its members and by being aware of the ambitions and plans of those struggling for their own interests in the area.

Asked about the Qatari-Bahraini dispute over Hawar Island, Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani said that British colonialism had planted the seeds of this dispute before it left. He said it is hoped that fraternal Bahrain and Qatar will resolve the dispute. He said: It is our desitny that we are governed by common historical and family ties and that the two fraternal countries will not allow any dispute or misunderstanding to continue between them. What is required is wisdom and reason, and with good faith we will achieve true results.

On the policy of the State of Qatar, he outlined that its policy under the leadership of the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, is based on utilizing the oil royalties to achieve tangible development in the Qatari economy through the establishment of industries and through the exploitation of the natural resources in Qatar--oil and gas--in order to diversify the sources of income and not to rely on oil as the sole means of wealth. He said that Qatar has several industries and several industrial investments abroad in many states and international companies.

RULER RECEIVES ELF DELEGATION; STATEMENTS MADE

NC111431Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 11 March--Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, today received a delegation of the Eritrean Liberation Front-the Popular Liberation Forces, led by 'Uthman Salih Sabi, the chairman of the front's Executive Committee, which is currently on a several-day visit to Qatar.

Sabi later told QNA that they had reviewed current developments in the Horn of Africa in general and in Eritrea in particular. Sabi added that the amir expressed total support for the Eritrean people's struggle for independence. Sabi concluded his statement by praising the political and material support which the state of Qatar has been granting to the Eritrean revolution.

Delegation Leaves 12 March

NC121000Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 12 March--'Uthman Salih Sabi, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front-the Popular Liberation Forces, left Doha this morning for Kuwait at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Qatar. Sabi has expressed thanks and profound appreciation for Qatar's stand under the leadership of Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. Qatar has supported the Eritrean people's right and their struggle to liberate their territory.

In a statement he made to QNA on leaving Doha, Sabi said Qatar leads the Arab states in supporting the Eritrean revolution. On the effect of the Somali Government's decision to withdraw its regular forces from Ogaden, Sabi said: We are watching the current developments in the Somali front with great interest.

We do not deny the effect which these events will have on the Eritrean revolution, but we are prepared to confront any military development in the Eritrean arena. We will rely on our long fighting experience and the support and participation of our people in the revolution.

He added: We are seeking the unity of the three factions of the revolution to win our fight against time and to resolve the issue in favor of independence. Some preliminary meetings have actually been held for this purpose. We have also appealed to the Eritrean leaders to hold an urgent emergency meeting to discuss developments in the wake of the decision to withdraw the Somali forces from Ogaden.

Sabi urged the Arab states to support Somalia with arms, experts and funds to confront the current foreign invasion so that the invasion will not extend to other areas in the Middle East and Africa. He called for an international conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAU to find a peaceful and just settlements in the Horn of Africa, a settlement which will guarantee the right of peoples to self-determination, including the Eritrean and Somali peoples in Ogaden.

Sabi urged the Soviet Union tohalt its military supplies to the aggressive and expansionist Ethiopian regime. He also urged the United States to change its present policy toward Eritrea and Somalia by supporting the right of these peoples to self-determination and independence. He concluded his statement by saying: We certainly cannot understand the motives behind the U.S. attitude of appeasement toward the Soviet Union's hostile policy in the Horn of Africa.

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI COMMENTARY SUPPORTS FEDAYEEN OPERATION

LD121248Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The so-called Israeli security is a demand which the Zionist entity made it a point to place at the top of its conditions for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. This is due to a sense of guilt resulting from the years of occupation. But had the Israelis thought carefully, they would find that the peace they seek can never be achieved so long as the causes of fear continue to exist.

The bold fedayeen operation carried out by the Palestine resistance last night to the north of Tel Aviv which claimed over 100 Israeli casualties, including both killed and wounded, has put things in their true perspective, affirming that the peace Israel wants will be impossible as long as the Palestinians continue to live away from their homeland in a state of destitution and fear and as long as the Israeli enemy continues to usurp their land and to deny them the minimum possible degree of freedom in determining their own fate and setting up their own state on their own land.

The fedayeen operation has proven also that the Palestinian people exist. This is a fact which Israel has tried to deny on more than one occasion, imagining that peace can be achieved by tanks and aircraft. Israel has forgotten that this peace depends on the reaching of a peaceful solution acceptable to all Arabs and in line with all their demands. The Israeli Cabinet has described the fedayeen operation as barbaric and horrible.

But the Israeli Cabinet is overlooking its repeated aggressions against southern Lebanon and the destruction of the peaceful villages there. It is overlooking the eviction of the innocent citizens from their homes and the destruction of their houses. It is overlooking the fact that its prisons are full of Palestinians against whom charges were fabricated and who have been sentenced for different terms. These actions deserve to be described as barbaric and the public should protest.

As the officials of the White House declared, this operation emphasizes the importance of reaching a solution for the Palestinian question. At the same time it affirms the determination of the Palestinian people to continue the armed struggle against the arrogance of the Zionist occupation--arrogance that prompted the defense minister of the Zionist enemy 'Ezer Weizman todeclare that Israel will decide within a day or two the form of revenge it will carry out. By this talk Weizman proves that revenge is the only excuse Israel can use for justifying its military operations.

But to the contrary, the fedayeen operation carried out last night aims at a noble, sublime objective. It suffices for it to draw the attention of world public opinion and all the countries sympathetic to Israel to the importance of the establishment of peace in the Middle East area, a peace founded on justice in line with international laws and rules.

The Arab nation, brothers, has exerted intensive efforts and offered many sacrifices for the reaching of a peaceful settlement of the problem. But the Zionist entity has been persisting in its obduracy and inflexibility day by day. Arrogance has carried it to the extent that it believed that the arsenal of arms it possesses will be the determining factor in deciding the fate of the area. By this, the enemy forgets a definite fact: that when the Arab nation resorts to peaceful means, it does not mean that it is unable to pursue another course more violent and more rigorous. But that shall be the last arrow in the quiver.

The best proof of the cowardice of the Israelis and their fear for their future is that the fedayeen operation has forced the enemy Prime Minister Menahem Begin to postpone his visit to the United States today. [passage indistinct]

FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNS ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE

LD1112427 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, has stated that the intransigence of the Zionist entity and its continued aggression against the Arab world, whether aimed at territory or holy places, is the main reason for failure to reach peace in the Middle East. His royal highness stressed that the efforts being exerted to achieve peace will continue to fall short of realizing their aims because of the intransigence of the enemy on expansion and his unreadiness to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The foreign minister, in an interview published by AL-JAZIRAH today, has called for solidarity among the Arab countries and for a closing of ranks to realize Arab aspirations founded on justice and peace.

COMMENTARY SCORES ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES

LD101456Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Commentary prepared by Ismat Ibrahim and presented by Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sha'lan: "What Is Behind the News"]

[Excerpt] At a press conference he held last night, U.S. President Carter stressed that rejecting UN Security Council Resolution No 242, which demands Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, is considered a serious setback to the future of peace in the Middle East. By this the U.S. President is referring to what was declared by Menahem Begin, prime minister of the Israeli enemy, to the effect that the aforementioned resolution does not mean withdrawing from the West Bank and Gaza sector but concerns other Arab territories.

The United States considers that this resolution covers all the Arab territories, including Gaza and the West Bank. When Israel declares this interpretation for the resolution, it wants to absolve itself from recognizing it through these interpretations, which are very remote from the resolution's nature. In fact, any political observer clearly notices that this new development in the Israeli posture constitutes another obstacle on the path of the efforts now being exerted for achieving peace in the region and for averting the shadow of war and destruction from it.

YEMEN--PDRY

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

JN120933Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0928 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 12 March--Malmierca, Cuban minister of foreign relations, arrived in Aden this morning on a visit of several days to the PDRY. In a statement he said that he will hold talks with PDRY officials dealing with bilateral relations and issues of common interest, including issues pertaining to the activity of the nonalined states.

Begins Talks

LD121449Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The first round of talks between a PDRY delegation led by brother Muhammad Salih Muti', Politburo member and foreign minister, and the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Cuba, led by comrade Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and foreign minister, began this morning at the Foreign Ministry. The talks dealt with relations between the two countries and international issues.

Comrade Isidoro and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Aden this morning for a visit of several days to Democratic Yemen. In a press statement on arrival, he said he would be holding talks during his visit with PDRY officials on relations between the two countries and international issues. He added that the talks would deal in particular with the activities of the nonalined states. Comrade Isidoro said in his press statement that the aim of his visit was to strengthen and develop the friendly relations and cooperation existing between the two friendly countries and peoples.

SOURCE COMMENTS ON FEDAYEEN OPERATION IN ISRAEL

NC121305Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that yesterday's incident in Israel reaffirms the true Egyptian stand expressed in the president's peace initiative. This stand is based on the need to reach a speedy comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem and on the fact that peace cannot be achieved in the area except by settling all aspects of the Palestinian problem and by enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination.

It is the policy of refusing to recognize the legitimate Arab rights which has involved the area for the last 30 years in a circle of violence and bloodshed. The president's initiative is aimed at breaking through this circle by establishing right and justice.

Ghali Comments on Raid

NC121640Y Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 12 (AFP)--The peace process must continue in the Middle East in spite of obstacles, Egyptian Foreign Minister [as received] Butrus Ghali said here today describing yesterday's Palestinian commando raid on Israel as one of many such obstacles.

The incident was similar to the "intransigent attitude" of Israeli Premier Menahem Begin, the opposition of certain other Arab states to As-Sadat's peace initiatives, the indifference of a sector of public opinion and "even an isolationist current in Egypt," Mr. Ghali said.

The raid should be considered in a historical context as were "accidents" that occurred during peace negotiations to end conflicts in Vietnam, Algeria and Korea, the foreign minister said.

AL-AKHBAR Comments on Operation

NC130728Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The Cairo newspapers today publish the full details of the fedayeen operation which was carried out in Tel Aviv and which set off vast chain reactions in Israel and abroad. The papers, reporting that 37 people were killed and 82 were wounded in the operation, add that Israel has already begun concentrating troops along the borders with Lebanon.

Commenting on this under the headline "The Inevitable Results of the Israeli Security Concept," AL-AKHBAR says that no nation can achieve true security by depriving other people of their right to live securely on their own territory. There can be no security for a people who usurp the national rights of others. The paper points out that recent developments only confirm this. The Palestinian resistance has managed to reach the heartland of Israel in Tel Aviv and has deeply shaken the fragile concept of Israeli security.

AL-AKHBAR adds that regardless of what violent reprisal Israel may launch against the Palestinian resistance and whatever bestial methods it may use in retaliation, one fact will continue to confront all Israeli leaders.

This fact is that security for Israel will only prevail if the original cause of the acts of violence and counterviolence is eliminated. This cause is the continued disregard for the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Insistence on maintaining the horrifying circle of violence and counterviolence carries with it the danger of pushing the entire Middle East toward a new war which would have unpredictable consequences for the security of the whole world.

AL-AKHBAR notes that the correct way to begin to break away from this vicious circle would be for Israel to change its security concept based on denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and insistence on continuing to occupy the West Bank and Gaza under the pretext of maintaining Israel's security. It is this very concept which escalates the Palestinian resistance and the reprisals against the resistance. In other words, the main keys to real peace remain locked away in that big prison that is the Israeli security concept.

In conclusion, the paper says that all the Israel leaders, especially Menahem Begin, carried out hundreds of terrorist operations against their enemies before the State of Israel came into being. These operations reached their climax when Menahem Begin blew up the King David Hotel and killed the innocent people in it under the pretext of fighting the British Mandate in Palestine. Israeli leaders would do well to remember this fact before judging the present motives of the Palestinian resistance.

AS-SADAT REPLY TO BEGIN'S MESSAGE COMPLETED

NC102225Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 10 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 March--In tomorrow's editions, the newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH report that President Anwar as-Sadat has completed preparing his reply to the message U.S. presidential envoy Alfred Atherton had brought to him last Monday from Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

AL-AHRAM points out that the entire situation was discussed during President Anwar as-Sadat's meeting yesterday with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, who will hand President as-Sadat's reply to the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Hermann Eilts, tomorrow.

AL-AHRAM Report on Message

NC121156Y Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 12 (AFP)--Egypt will not re-open peace talks with Israeli military and political advisers without an important concession from Israel, it was reported today. The semi-official newspaper AL-AHRAM was giving details of a message sent by President Anwar as-Sadat to Israeli Premier Menahem Begin.

According to the message, Egypt wanted a clear change in Israel's stand on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. Until such time, Egypt would not accept Mr Begin's proposal to re-start the suspended discussions between Egyptian and Israeli Political and Military commissions, the paper reported.

In his letter, delivered via the U.S. ambassador here, President as-Sadat asked Mr Begin to make clear his stand regarding the West Bank of the Jordan. The message also reaffirmed President as-Sadat's wish for a peaceful outcome to the Middle East crisis, it was said. The president was replying to a letter sent to him by Mr Begin last week.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR EILTS

NC1114417 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 11 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat this afternoon received U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts in Al-Fayyum.

ENVOY SAYS NO AS-SADAT-BEGIN MEETING PLANNED

NC1021277 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, said today that there is no intention to hold a second meeting between President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin before Israel changes its bargaining stand at the Middle East peace talks.

In remarks to the reporters in Atlanta, Dr Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is facing an inflexible Israeli stand. He added that if during this forthcoming visit to Washington Begin can offer something to President as-Sadat, then the president might agree to the holding of a meeting with him.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid criticized the way Menahem Begin has interpretated UN Resolution 242 and his allegation that this resolution does not apply to the occupied West Bank. He asked how Menahem Begin could defend his point of view.

Regarding the dispute in the Horn of Africa, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed his pleasure with Somalia's decision to withdraw its regular forces from Ogaden. He said that any disturbances in this part of Africa will have repercussions on the interests of the other parts of the continent.

CYPRUS PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT

NC1022337 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2212 GMT 10 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 March--In Saturday's editions, the newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH report that British Ambassador in Cairo Willie Morris, in his capacity as caretaker of Cyprus interests in Egypt, has given Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil a message from Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou for President Anwar as-Sadat.

AL-AHRAM says that the message emphasizes Cyprus' eagerness to preserve its relations with Egypt and the importance of cooperation among the nonalined states.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS

NC1112017 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1110 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[President Anwar as-Sadat interview with American correspondents at end of his inspection tour of food security projects in Al-Fayyum on 11 March--in English, live]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, can I ask you a few questions?

[Answer] Yes, please.

[Question] Mrs Golda Meir has said that Mr Begin has threatened the whole basis of negotiations because of his interpretation of Resolution 242 as regards the West Bank. You agree that he is threatening the whole basis of negotiations?

[Answer] Well, I have already stated my position. Yes, he is threatening the whole basis, not only of the negotiations but also the initiative we started.

[Question] Do you fear now that the whole initiative which you have started [words indistinct]

[Answer] I never fear anything will affect that. But it is possible. Maybe it is possible that whenever Mr Begin is adopting this policy, [words indistinct].

[Question] But if you were President Carter, what would you have him say to Mr Begin?

[Answer] Why should I be President Carter? As I told you, on my last trip to the States I declared that America is a full partner. Let us hope that President Carter will resume his responsibility as a full partner in the whole problem.

[Question] Has this past month of shuttle diplomacy by Mr Atherton been a waste since it has achieved so little, if anything at all?

[Answer] No, I can't say that it has been failure at all. There has never been really anything that materialized from this trip. But still this shuttle brings from time to time some points here and there nearer to each other. I don't consider it a failure at all.

[Question] Mr President, I am sure you will be watching the outcome of Prime Minister Begin's visit to Washington this coming week very closely, even though you will be in Upper Egypt. You are hoping, of course, that the United States and President Carter may come forth with their own peace formula to break this deadlock. You are hoping that, are you not?

[Answer] Well, I am not suggesting anything at all to President Carter except this: That he act as a full partner. I don't suggest any specific way for him to deal also. I want to see him as a full partner. I have been in the states and I found that all the American public opinion agrees to this.

[Question] What does that mean?

[Anwer] It means a lot.

[Question] Thank you very much, Mr President.

AS-SADAT MEETS OFFICIALS IN AL-FAYYUM GOVERNORATE

NC121907Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] For the second day running, President As-Sadat today continued his visit to Al-Fayyum Governorate. His excellency held a meeting today with Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and local government, agricultural, irrigation and housing ministers to discuss food security projects in the governorate.

Discusses Various Projects

NC122200Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat held a meeting in Al-Fayyum today. It was attended by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, chief of the president's office Hasan Kamil, Local Government Minister Muhammad Hamid Mahmud, Irrigation and Land Reclamation Minister 'Abd al-'Azim Abu al-'Ata, Agriculture Minister Ibrahim Shukri, Housing and Reconstruction Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, leader of the parliamentary group for Ismailia Governorate Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, presidential adviser for scientific affairs Dr Faruq al-Baz, head of the Desert Sciences Institute Dr 'Abd ash-Shata and professor at the institute Dr Sayyid 'Atwah.

At the beginning of the meeting, President as-Sadat explained the trend and policy for the reclamation of land suitable for cultivation for which water resources and manpower are available. This land covers an area of about 3 million feddans, and it is located in various places, such as in the southern part of the valley, around the High Dam lake, adjacent to the Nile delta in the Western and Eastern deserts, on the northern coast and in Sinai.

The president of the republic explained to the conferees that the struggle to invade the desert and expand the amount of farmland is a development project of utmost priority so that we might begin using more than the 4 percent of the agricultural land we are utilizing at present out of all of Egypt. This battle must achieve our primary aim of providing food security, meet the requirements of industrialization and export, accommodate the increase in population and allow for the redistribution of the population in a sound manner so as to realize the social and economic targets of the development plans.

The president explained to the conferees that wherever we have arable land, water, manpower and experience, we should embark on this battle and triumph in it.

After revieving the horizontal ['ufuqi] and agricultural expansion that has been achieved since the beginning of the revolution, the president said that the new plan and its size depend on the government's extending services, constructing roads and bringing water to the new reclaimed and cultivated areas. The pioneer invaders of the desert should reclaim the land and own it within the context of a national plan in which government efforts and individual and company initiatives are integrated.

On this basis, the president called on the conferees to carry out a comprehensive study of this new method of invading the desert--a method which is part of the policy of horizontal expansion in the new land and of the agricultural production line and contributes to the establishment of new societies and to solving the problems of housing and overpopulation in Al-Wadi al-Jadid. He said this requires the preparation of comprehensive economical and social studies on how to best utilize the Nile water and subterranean waters and human resources. It also needs the foreign expertise of the states which have faced such a horizontal expansion in their agricultural land. It also requires the sending of groups abroad to study the successful examples of such projects. This will eventually be beneficial in preparing a complete study of our horizontal agricultural expansion program in the desert.

The ministers and experts that took part in the conference then presented the studies and achievements accomplished so far in this field, each according to his line of specialization. The head of the Desert Sciences Institute also gave a scientific presentation of the project and the studies the institute has carried out in the eastern desert and in Sinai, the northwestern coast and the High Dam lake.

Prime Minister Mamduh Salim then reviewed the government's general policy on the utilization of water resources and the plans for horizontal agricultural expansion. His excellency explained the studies carried out by the Electricity and Energy Ministry with regard to the subjects put forward for discussion. These subjects deal with using solar energy to operate irrigation equipment, particularly in (An-Nuba) area, as one of the sources of energy for reclaiming agricultural land. He said that the ministry will present a complete report on the subject soon.

At the end of the meeting, President Anwar as-Sadat affirmed that the invasion of the desert to provide food security and contribute to economic and social development is our future battle. He said that all government and popular efforts must be exerted in this battle. All the Egyptian scientific brains and local and foreign expertise in this field must also take part in it so that we may embark on the phase of intensified agricultural and food production so as to achieve prosperity for all the people of Egypt.

Another meeting will be held to finalize the studies on the plans for the reclamation of new land in the various parts of the republic and to determine the priority of each reclamation project in light of the studies on the available water resources and the feasibility of reclaiming these lands and the time required to make them productive.

AL-AHRAM EDITOR ANALYZES SITUATION IN LEBANON

NC111504Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says that the political atmosphere in Lebanon is at present fraught with tension, anxiety and nervousness and that all politicians in Lebanon are now more in a suspicious frame of mind than anything else. In an article by its chief editor, 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal, the paper today says that the tension now prevailing in Lebanon is no longer the result of the Palestinian presence but rather the result of the Syrian presence, which is becoming a form of occupation.

AL-AHRAM adds: The occupation phenomenon is manifested in a number of ways, especially the following:

1. Syria wants to extend the mandate of the Arab deterrent forces by direct agreement with Lebanon, without submitting the matter to the Arab League council, which had adopted the original decision and which has the prerogative to extend or terminate the mandate. Syria is trying to convince the Lebanese authorities that a bilateral agreement between Damascus and Beirut is sufficient and that Libya would undertake the financing if the other Arab states refused to contribute to the financing on the grounds that the decision [to extend the mandate] was not made by the Arab League council. The Lebanese authorities are rejecting this proposal because they believe that a direct agreement with Syria would mean official recognition of the Syrian occupation of Lebanon.

2. The political leadership in Lebanon wants to rebuild the Lebanese armed forces so that they will shoulder the responsibility of protecting Lebanese territory and Lebanese nationalism. The Syrian authorities are placing all the obstacles they can in the way of this because they realize that when the Lebanese armed forces become ready to assume their responsibilities, the Syrian deterrent forces will have to leave since the justification for their presence in Lebanon will no longer exist. The Syrian Ba'thist authorities fully realize that the return of the deterrent forces to Syria would mean the fall of the present regime because their return would mean that many divergent and complex accounts would have to be settled in various fields, as everyone knows.

3. The head of state in Lebanon wants to reshuffle and strengthen the Lebanese Cabinet to enable it to meet the various challenges facing Lebanon, but the Syrian Ba'thist regime wants to impose a number of its agents on the Lebanese president to have them included in the cabinet so that the Syrian Ba'thists will direct the Lebanese policy to the satisfaction of the Syrian occupation authorities. While the conflicting political forces in Lebanon are beginning to grasp the truth about the Syrian presence in Lebanon and are beginning to cooperate among themselves to get rid of this presence, there are some people who, out to serve their own selfish interests, are still making it possible for the Syrian occupation to consolidate its position in Lebanon.

4. The execution of two Lebanese officers at the insistence of the Syrian Ba'thist authorities has infuriated all the Lebanese people, particularly since two Lebanese judges had refused to pass a death sentence against these two officers. The Lebanese people were also angered by the fact that a Lebanese court included two Syrian judges for the first time in Lebanon's judiciary history.

So, this is the picture of the Syrian occupation of Lebanese territory, which has occurred under the pretext of protecting Lebanon from the Palestinians. Now that the Syrian Army has subjugated the Palestinian forces, it is beginning to show its real face and come out in the open not to control the Lebanese Army but to occupy Lebanon.

If the Syrian Ba'th Party imagines that, in view of the present circumstances in the Arab world, it can impose its authority on Lebanon, then it is deluding itself for several reasons, the most important being that the Syrian Ba'th Party is unable to impose its authority even on the Syrian people. This explains its panicky attitude toward the peace initiative. The strange thing is that the Syrian presence in Lebanon serves Israeli interests above all. We must today recall Egypt's strong, resounding, and sincere call when the Lebanese incidents first started: "Keep your hands off Lebanon." Today we must repeat: "Keep your hands off Lebanon."

EGYPT WELCOMES WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES

NC1013502 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that Cairo considers Somalia's decision to withdraw its regular forces from Ogaden as a constructive step toward finding a peaceful solution of the dispute within the OAU framework. Cairo is in contact with Ethiopia and Somalia and some other African states to secure an African solution to this dispute which would guarantee the restoration of fraternal relations among the peoples in the area in accordance with the African spirit among brothers.

AL-JUMHURIYAH CONDEMNS U.S. STAND ON TEL AVIV ATTACK

JN130847Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 March--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today condemns the attitude of the U.S. Government toward the attack the Arab fedayeen carried out 2 days ago near Tel Aviv. The paper says that Carter's statements condemning the fedayeen operation remind us of the U.S. silence over all the brutal Zionist aggressions which claimed thousands of innocent victims.

The paper adds that the Carter administration has never denounced any Zionist aggression, even when it was raising the slogans of peace, mediation and neutrality. But this administration expressed its condemnation loudly and blatantly when a few heroes proved that they are capable of dealing blows and that the Arab Palestinian people do exist, despite Begin's saying that this name does not exist in the Zionist lexicon.

ENVOY TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SARKIS

JN120757Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0736 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 March--Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Ba'th Party National Command as well as of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], today left for Beirut as President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's envoy to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. The Iraqi envoy will convey to President Sarkis a verbal message concerning the situation in Lebanon and the current Arab situation.

While in the Lebanese capital, 'Aziz will represent the Ba'th Party at the sumposium which will be held there tomorrow on the first anniversary of the martyrdom of struggler Kamal Junblatt.

The Iraqi envoy is accompanied by 'Abd al-Husayn Muslim, the dirctor of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office at the party National Command.

IRAQ SUPPORTS MOVEMENTS IN LEBANON, EGYPT, TUNISIA

JN121217Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Tripoli, 12 March--Na'im Haddad, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and the RCC has affirmed Iraq's support for the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement.

Speaking to INA before leaving Tripoli, Libya, today for Baghdad, Haddad said the efforts now being exerted by Iraq are aimed at Lebanon's security and unity, safeguarding its Arabism and sovereignty and bringing about national accord in the presence of the Lebanese movement and the Palestinian resistance. He added that Iraq is giving absolute support to the Egyptian nationalist movement and to the Tunisian nationalist movement.

Haddad said the resolutions of the general secretariat of the Arab popular conference [which just met in Tripoli] express the will of the Arab forces, parties and mass organizations. He said that the nature of the hot conflict between the Arab masses and their enemies calls for the adoption of practical steps to formulate a revolutionary Arab strategy which is primarily aimed at rejecting the [political] settlement and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

DELEGATION RETURNS FOLLOWING BORDER TALKS IN IRAN

JN121148Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 March--An Iraqi delegation headed by 'Adnan Mustafa, the director general of the Interior Ministry, has returned to Baghdad from Teheran following a weeklong visit to Iran. Mustafa declared that the discussion during this visit dealt with the development of relations between the two countries and coordination of the work of the border commissioners under the 1975 agreement signed between Iraq and neighboring Iran.

FINANCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM KUWAIT, MAKES STATEMENT

JN121506Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 12 March--Finance Minister Dr Fawzi 'Abdallah returned here today after heading the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the Arab Economic Unity Council and of the Council of Shareholders of the Arab Organization for Agricultural and Development Investment.

In a statement, Dr Fawzi said that the meetings of the Arab Economic Unity Council, which concluded in Kuwait yesterday, were extremely positive and constructive and that they laid a new firm basis for joint Arab economic action.

IRAQI, POLISH TRADE UNIONS SIGN COOPERATION PROTOCOL

JN122011Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Iraqi and the Polish federations of trade unions have expressed their readiness to increase their cooperation with the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Labor Organization through the meetings and conferences of these bodies. The Iraqi and Polish federations today signed a protocol in Baghdad in which they agreed to exchange cultural and trade union delegations, in addition to lecturers and trade union publications in the two countries.

The protocol was signed for the Iraqi federation by the deputy chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions and for the Polish federation by the deputy chairman of the federation, who is currently visiting Iraq. The signing ceremony was attended by the Polish ambassador in Baghdad.

KURDISH LEADER CABLES AL-BAKR ON AUTONOMY ANNIVERSARY

JN111549Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 March--The Executive Council of the autonomous region has pledged to pool all resources to serve the revolution, preserve its achievements and strengthen national unity. This came in a cable of good wishes sent by Chairman of the Executive Council Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Vice Chairman of the RCC Saddam Husayn on the eighth anniversary of the 11 March declaration and the fourth anniversary of the legislation of the autonomy. The cable said: In celebrating this anniversary we are more determined to exert all our efforts to consolidate the principles of the autonomy, which expresses the humane teachings of the Ba'th Party, and to bolster the autonomy's victorious march with the tremendous support given by the political leadership of the party and the revolution for this great experiment and its constitutional bodies.

KURDISH PARTY PRAISES IRAQ'S STAND ON KURDISH QUESTION

JN101717Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party has affirmed that the 11 March declaration is a significant and historic document which approved self-rule and laid the basis for a democratic peaceful solution to the Kurdish question. In a statement issued today the party said that the declaration represented a unique change from the previous formulas, which had shaken the foundations of national unity and obstructed the country's path toward progress and prosperity.

The statement which was issued on the 11 March anniversary pointed out that the autonomy guaranteed effective and active participation by the toiling masses in the political, economic and social life of the country. The statement evaluated the progress achieved during the past 4 years and said that these years have been full of positive achievements and numerous gains. The statement said that various tasks are facing the executive and legislative departments in the autonomous region at the present stage. The most important among these tasks is the liquidation of the backward relations [al-'alaqat al-mutakhallifah] in the countryside.

The statement said that the autonomy has been a bulwark against the attempts of the forces of the enemies of the people to destroy this tremendous achievement in order to serve the purposes of the imperialists and the Zionists. These forces are today trying to reactivate their vicious plots to strike at the progressive Arab forces, particularly in the Iraqi region. The statement praised the great victories achieved under the 17 July Revolution and its defeat of the oil monopolies.

NONALINED RADIO BROADCASTING GROUPS BEGIN MEETINGS

JN111031Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 March--The second meeting of the radio broadcasting organizations of the nonalined countries began here this morning. The meeting is attended by the representatives of 19 states chosen at the first meeting, which was held in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, last year.

The meeting will discuss the following major topics: preparations for the international administrative conference of radio broadcasting to be held in Sierra Leone; the state of radio broadcasting in the nonalined states; cooperation in the field of satellites; the formation of working groups to study live broadcasting and the exchange of programs; assistance to less-developed broadcasting organizations; training broadcasting cadres; and fixing a date and venue for the third meeting.

The meeting elected (Zlatko Sinobad), head of the Yugoslav Radio Broadcasting Organization, as chairman of the meeting.

(Sinobad) explained the importance of the topics being discussed and said that the meeting will contribute to the development of broadcasting cooperation, consolidate friendship among the peoples of the nonalined countries and confront the information media of the imperialist countries.

The meeting held its first session and approved the agenda.

HUSAYN GIVES SPEECH ON CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

JN111527 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1225 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text of Jordanian King Husayn's speech in Amman on 11 March during celebrations marking Teacher's Day--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate; brother and sister teachers: I am proud and happy to be with you here today to celebrate Teacher's Day--the day that is honored by our Jordanian society to do honor to a select group of its sons and to take pride in their dedicated work, which is devoted to bringing up a new generation and preparing them in a sound manner based on strong ethics and on the spirit of work, cooperation and affiliation to the soil of this homeland.

Brothers and sisters, when we talk about the renaissance we hope for, we cannot ignore the current political reality which is impeding our renaissance and our progress and which constitutes a stumbling block in the face of our march toward the social and economic construction to which we aspire. Our generations who witnessed the beginning of our struggle with the expansionist aggression and the generations who are witnessing the aggression's subsequent stage are destined to face the responsibilities of building and defending the nation.

Since the beginning, Jordan has realized the factors of the struggle which was imposed on us and placed it in its proper perspective. Ever since the aggression's last stage erupted in 1967, we in Jordan have maintained a clear and frank attitude, which is being realized by the world and which is responsive to the principles of our nation and to our pan-Arab duties.

We have declared since 1967 that just peace is our goal as well as the goal of the entire Arab nation. We have also declared since then that we accept just settlement based on the balance of the following two commitments: first, full withdrawal to the lines from which the aggression proceeded in June 1967, including Jerusalem and all other territories, and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. In return for this commitment, there should be a commitment to lasting peace which would insure to all peoples and states in the area the right to exist within secure and guaranteed borders. We have not deviated from this framework during the past 11 years. Despite several developments in the international arena and in the area, we did not abandon our right and commitment. Our Arab homeland and the entire world testify to the fact that we continued to hold our line, unaffected by pressure and difficulties throughout the years. Pressure and difficulties failed to make us succumb or yield. Bitterness and oppression also failed to make us resort to negative and desperate reaction.

We remained strong and sincere in insisting on the Arab right and the legitimate and definite Palestinian rights, without closing our doors to peaceful endeavors or breaking off the dialog with any international side wishing to negatiate with us about this cause which concerns the entire world.

We accepted UN Secretary Council Resolution 242 and the various UN resolutions. We received UN envoys and any other international side which expressed a desire to get acquainted with us or to exert useful efforts. We carried our cause with logic, justice and persistence to the various world capitals. We conducted a dialog with the United States regarding its efforts and peaceful endeavors with a positive attitude and a real desire for a just peace.

When the winds of division threatened the Arab homeland on the means to remedy this sacred cause, we stood and still are standing today, calling upon our brothers to grasp the danger of division, which is greater than any foreign danger. We asserted to them that fraternal dialog, constant contact and frankness are the means to understanding and accord among us all. Under the canopy of this historical struggle which has been imposed on us, we come to understand every day that the only means to confront it is unity of stands and full solidarity among the Arab countries, particularly those which fall in direct confrontation, and Arab accord on an overall and reasonable method to build the intrinsic power and to focus on building the power of Jordan in particular since it is threatened and is influential in maintaining the dialog with the entire world for the sake of reaching a just and honorable solution. [applause]

Since President as-Sadat's peaceful initiative, the entire world has realized that the stumbling block to settlement is Israel's insistence on entrenching its occupation, legalizing its occupation and refusing to evacuate the territories it occupies; nay, refusing the simplest recognized international rights; namely, the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people--the people whose land is being occupied by Israel.

The entire world should throw its weight behind support for the principles of justice and international law against aggression and expansion by means of war and armed force. When we in Jordan call for a clear Israeli commitment to withdrawal and to the Palestinian rights within the context of the peace efforts, we demand what is natural and what lies within the core of international law and current international norms. A normal call for withdrawal as part of peace constitutes a call to end an illegitimate occupation and not merely to discuss the issue of borders.

The call for self-determination of the Palestinian people and for a just solution of their problem would not have led to argument had it not been for Israel's insistance on refusing to recognize the existence of a dynamic and integrated people who have deep roots in their land and whose presence prevents Israel's expansion in their land and the land of their brothers and neighbors.

The call for a clear commitment regarding the termination of occupation and a just solution of the Palestinian cause is similar to the call for peace. They are not conditions for negotiations but normal objectives for it. Otherwise, what would be the aim behind holding the talks in the first place? This is our attitude, which we have defined and declared. We in Jordan exert today and will continue to exert in the future every possible positive effort to steer the wheel of just and lasting peace in our area. The world, however, especially the United States, should shoulder a principal responsibility to support the side which is seeking a just and reasonable peace and oppose the side which is seeking a false and superficial peace, aimed mainly at entrenching the aggression and legalizing the expansionist ambitions. The world should not be a mediator in this cause. Nay, it must support real peace and international justice.

HUSAYN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH ATHERTON REPORTED

NC1113015Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 11 March--The newspaper AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI today reports that King Husayn of Jordan has informed U.S. Envoy Alfred Atherton that Jordan is prepared to negotiate with the Israelis if they declare that they will totally withdraw from all the occupied territory in accordance with Resolution 242 and recognize the right to self-determination for the Palestinians. King Husayn also informed Atherton that Israel is the one which obstructed President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative and which is now seeking to eliminate its effects. Husayn also said Israel will undermine any peaceful initiative if the international situation remains as it is now. The paper, which attributes this report to an urgent dispatch sent from Amman to a European capital on Atherton's talks in the Jordanian capital, says that King Husayn informed the U.S. envoy that Jordan and several Arab states are apprehensive about the negative stand of the international community regarding Begin's hard line, that these states are beginning to doubt the seriousness of the U.S. stand and that Jordan is pessimistic and sees the area heading toward war.

JORDAN TIMES: U.S. DISAPPOINTING AS MEDIATOR

JN110859Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Mar 78 p 2 JN

[Editorial: "Take Your Seats; The Show Is About to Begin"]

[Text] It is no coincidence that two of the Arab world's most "moderate" leaders, His Majesty King Husayn and President as-Sadat of Egypt, have called this week for the United States to play a more active role in the search for a Middle East peace, at a time when the Israelis are moving farther and farther away from the few areas where there has been universal agreement on the requirements of a real peace, such as Resolution 242.

There is a clear disenchantment in the Arab world with the lack of either the willingness or ability of the United States to play a successful mediating role, and this is due almost solely to the hardening Israeli position. While it is necessary always to let the Americans know what is expected of them, we suggest it is more important now--at this latest critical juncture--to look ahead into the future and see what happens if the American mediation effort falls flat on its face, as it appears to be doing.

While Israel and the United States can sit back and be relatively sure that a major Middle East war will not erupt again in the coming year or two--because of technical and political disarray in the Arab world--that assurance cannot be projected very much further into the future. The collapse of the As-Sadat initiative will surely act to galvanise anti-Western feelings and forces in the entire Middle East, and we may see another one of those major, collective shifts in the political leanings of the leading Arab states, but this time away from the West, instead of towards the West, as happened after the 1973 war.

There is tremendous disappointment in the Arab world today with the role of the United States as a mediator. It is difficult to mediate between parties when one of the parties is no more than your client state stuffed full of guns and pumped up annually with billions of dollars in economic aid. This stultifying contradiction has now come to the fore as never before, and the Arabs will be watching next week's meetings between President Carter and Israeli Premier Begin very closely, to see who dictates what to whom. We may be on the verge of one of history's most grotesque farces.

HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM AL-QADHDHAFI

JN120808Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Mar 78 p 1 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn yesterday received Libyan Ambassador in Amman Salih as-Sanusi. The ambassador has told AR-RA'Y that he conveyed a verbal message to his majesty from His Excellency Libyan Chairman Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and the current Arab situation.

As-Sanusi had returned to Amman following a visit of several days to Tripoli.

SENATE SPEAKER AT-TALHUNI LEAVES FOR CAIRO

JN111539Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 11 March--Bahjat at-Talhuni, speaker of the Senate and president of the Arab Parliamentary Union, left for Cairo today on a week-long visit. During the visit At-Talhuni will meet with the president of the African Parliamentary Union and the speakers of the African parliaments.

At-Talhuni stated that he will discuss with African parliamentarians cooperation between the Arab and African parliamentary unions and coordination of their stands at seminars and meetings of the International Parliamentary Federation.

AL-HUSS DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN FEDAYEEN OPERATION

NC121750Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1700 today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met at his house in Ad-Dawrah with former Prime Minister Taqiyy Ad-Din as-Sulh within the framework of the contacts and meetings which Prime Minister al-Huss is holding with dignitaries and officials in the country. After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss and former Prime Minister as-Sulh spoke about the current conditions. Asked about statements by some Israeli officials involving the name of Lebanon in the incident which took place yesterday, Prime Minister Dr al-Huss said: It is very strange that the name of Lebanon should be involved in some statements made by Israeli officials regarding the incident which took place yesterday. It is self-evident thay Lebanon is not responsible for what happened and that it has no connection with it. Any attempt to implicatr Lebanon in this issue is a mere fabrication.

ISRAELI CONCENTRATIONS REPORTED ON SOUTHERN BORDER

NC130729Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, Palestinian organizations have been in a state of alert since Saturday evening and their members have been forbidden to assemble together or appear in open places. Precautions have been adopted around the camps in anticipation of an Israeli reaction to the operation which was carried out on Saturday by 11 fedayeen against a bus traveling between Haifa and Tel Aviv.

Reports also indicate that more Israeli concentrations than ever before can be observed along the Lebanese-Israeli border and that several Israeli military helicopters have been spotted crossing over the border area.

ALERT DECLARED IN SOUTH; RETALIATION FEARED

JN120929Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0909 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 12 March--A state of maximum alert was declared today in the ranks of the joint forces in southern Lebanon as a precaution against any Zionist aggression or retaliation in the wake of the threats made by enemy Defense Minister Weizman following the heroic operation carried out yesterday by the Palestinian revolutionaries inside occupied Palestine.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that calm fraught with tension prevails in the area. A large wave of evacuation was evident early this morning. The correspondent further reports that the Palestinian [refugee] camps have been almost vacated of their residents as a precaution against any retaliatory raids which the enemy might launch. The correspondent adds that the enemy carried out intensive naval movements along the southern coast last night. Enemy helicopters overflew the border area.

SARKIS RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM AL-BAKR

NC130824Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis at 0900 today received Minister Tariq 'Aziz, personal envoy of Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, in presence of Iraqi Ambassador in Beirut Muhammad Qasim as-Samawi. The Iraqi envoy conveyed an oral message from President al-Bakr to President Sarkis.

AL-BA'TH ...S MESSAGE OF TEL AVIV OPERATION CLEAR

JN130835Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[From the Press Review]

[Text] On the courageous operation carried out by the Palestinian revolutionaries inside the occupied territories, the newspaper AL-BA'TH publishes an editorial under the headline "A Palestinian Puzzle" in which it says: The latest operation carried out by the Palestinian resistance comes at a time when those who want to ignore are trying to ignore the Palestinian Arab people and their cause, and when those who want to foreget are trying to forget the Palestinian people's struggle and the depth of the Arab tragedy. The importance of the operation--regardless of its direct results, which do concern us--is that it occurs during the course of events which are (?trivial) but which are intended to have a loud echo to dominate and cover the fabricated attempts at decreasing the importance of the Palestinian people and their cause, in order to peddle capitualatory solutions step by step.

The operation proves to those concerned the vitality of the Palestinian Arab people's revolution, the cohesion among members of this people and, above everything else, their will and determination. The operation is a reminder of the categorical rejection of the idea of accepting "a homeland" or "homelands" as substitutes for Arab Palestine, and it ends all arguments on this subject.

The paper adds: What is more important is that such an operation explodes Zionist claims about the questions of security and defensible borders. The operation conveyed the message. Begin's postponing his U.S. visit and Weizman's interrupting his visit to Washington and returning to Tel Aviv are two facts that indicate deep awareness of the meaning of this operation and show that political circles there do not consider it as just another incident. The operation and its developments can serve to revive the discussion about the practicality of Israel's expansion. It can also open the door to discussion about the meaning of the flow of U.S. arms and its negative effect on the long-sought just peace.

AL-BA'TH concludes its editorial: In this framework, the operation carried out by the Palestinian resistance must be seen as conforming with United Nations norms, constituting serious participation in the achievement of peace obstructed by Israeli maneuvers. Thus, we cannot exclude the possibility that this operation may be the beginning of a new way to deal on a new level with the still unresolved conflict.

ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN111435Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--Manea Manescu, the prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mrs Manescu and the accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus at noon today on a 1-week visit to Syria. He was met at Damascus International Airport by Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, the prime minister; Mrs Khulayfawi; Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Fahmi al-Yusufi, deputy prime minister for servicer affairs; and a number of ministers and senior government officials.

Prime Minister Manescu announced that he brought a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. He said: I am pleased and honored to bring with me a letter from President Ceausescu to his great friend Hafiz al-Asad.

Manescu added: Friendship and confidence between the two presidents are the cornerstone of the bilateral relations and of the dealings and cooperation between our two countries and peoples in all fields.

In a statement upon his arrival at the airport, Manescu said: I am returning to Syria with the feeling that I am setting foot on the soil of a friendly country. We are very pleased that we have come to your country at a very important moment--the Syrian people's unanimous reelection to the presidency of Hafiz al-Asad, prominent leader of the party and the state. The official and friendly visit of the Romanian delegation to the Syrian Arab Republic takes place within the framework of the program which was defined on the basis of the agreements approved by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to have the two countries' prime ministers meet in order to analyze the situation and decide on the measures necessary for full implementation of the decisions adopted by the two presidents. This is a proof of the cordial relations of respect, rapproachement and cooperation between Romania and Syria, as well as of the high level of cooperation between our two countries and the mutual desire for a continuous widening and deepening of the brotherly relations in the interests of both the Romanian and Syrian peoples, the cause of peace and international cooperation.

We are pleased that we shall have the opportunity to become directly acquainted with the splendid results achieved by the Syrian people in the political, economic and social spheres during the 15 years since the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party came to power.

The leadership of our party and state will work with the same (?determination) to implement the agreements concluded with the aim of developing cooperation between us in the various fields in the interests of our two peoples. Romania stands and works unwaveringly for the establishment of peace in the Middle East, the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the settlement of the Palestinian people's issue according to their national aspirations, including the establishment of their own independent state. I would like to express my satisfaction that our visit to fraternal Syria will prompt anew the cordial relations between our two countries and peoples.

Khulayfawi Speaks at Banquet

JN111948Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text of speech delivered by Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi at a banquet he hosted on 11 March in honor of Romanian Prime Minister Manea Manescu]

[Text] Your Excellency Manea Manescu, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mrs Manescu, dear friends and brothers: It gives me great pleasure to welcome you as dear friends of our people and government and as representatives of a friendly people and country with which our relations have been strengthened and diversified in various fields. Cooperation relations between our two countries have reached an advanced stage commensurate with the strong friendship and the sincerity of our cooperation in the economic, cultural and scientific spheres, among others. We are happy that your visit to our country comes at a time when our people are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution and at the beginning of our struggler President Hafiz al-Asad's assumption of his constituional duties for the second time following popular unanimity for the renewal of his term in office.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, dear guests, a few days ago, President Hafiz al-Asad dealt before the People's Assembly with the general framework of our local and foreign policy from all aspects--economic, social, scientific and cultural--and reaffirmed that the taks of defending the homeland and achieving rapid and balanced development are the main tasks for our people at this stage. During your previous visit to our country, you perhaps observed the general conditions of our development and the stages it had achieved in accordance with the development plans in our country and their future prospects. Undoubtedly, you will notice, during your present visit, the stage we have achieved and the methods used to rapidly implement development programs. You will also notice the great efforts being exerted by our people in various fields under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its Secretary General President Hafiz al-Asad, to build a developed society and raise the standard of living. You will also get acquainted with the progress and development our people have achieved, and with the efficiency and high capabilities of our technicians and workers who have carried out and implemented hundreds of industrial projects and plants with perfection.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, dear guests, the latest political developments in our area have reaffirmed Israel's hostile spirit, its expansionist aims and its disregard for the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council and of international public opinion; and its adoption of a policy of aggression that threatens world peace and security. The latest developments have proved that Israel does not want peace and does not seek it, but works to create new obstacles and difficulties to any just settlement of the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli struggle. It has been proved beyond doubt that Israel's previous claims and words about the methods, means and conditions were false. It is now clear that the annexation of occupied Arab territories and the denial of the Palestinian people's rights are the firm, strategic and basic objectives of Israel.

Your Excellency Mr Prime Minister, we want peace, for which we are working. We shall not accept any solution unless the Palestinian people recover their national and legitimate rights and there is complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. Without these two conditions no peace is possible and any agreement will be some sort of capitulation and a relinquishing of national sovereignty and national soil. This position is the essence of our policy. It is a strategic position, not a negotiable one, which has been adopted by our party, our people and their national progressive front.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, dear guests, we are working persistently to achieve the anticolonialist-imperialist-Zionist Arab solidarity aimed at mobilizing all the Arab resources necessary to achieve the objectives of our nation and to complete the liberation of [words indistinct]. We are endeavoring to strengthen our friendship and cooperation with the socialist countries and the nonalined countries. We emphasize our cooperation with the movements of liberation and progress in the world. We also support the peoples struggling for their freedom and combat all kinds of (?oppression) and racism.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, dear guests, the relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries and peoples have developed to a great extent through the past years. We achieved several stages of this cooperation upon the instructions of the leaders of our two countries, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Nicolae Ceausescu.

I believe that we will discuss during your visit a number of important topics necessary for our cooperation in various fields, as well as conducting a comprehensive review of the development projects which are being implemented with your cooperation, whether in the Baniyas refinery, in the projects pertaining to the dehydration of phosphate and (?triple phosphate), or the methods necessary to expedite land reclamation. In addition, we will study the possibilities of developing trade between the two countries and other cooperation demains. I am confident that we will succeed in deepening our cooperation in the service of our countries and peoples.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, dear guests, we are following with extreme interest the accomplishments of your country in the various domains under the Romanian Communist Party and President Nicolae Ceausescu. We also realize the depth and importance of these accomplishments in stimulating the standard of living of your people and in developing your country. We express our happiness for your successes.

I welcome you once again and I wish you a good stay in our country. I wish our talks success in the service of our countries, our peoples and our common objectives.

I extend my greetings to you, Mr Prime Minister, to Mrs Manescu and to your delegation. I hope that the ties of friendship and cooperation between our countries and peoples will be strengthened.

Manescu Delivers Speech

JN111903Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text of speech delivered by Romanian Prime Minister Manea Manescu at banquet hosted in his honor 11 March by Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi]

Mr Prime Minister, Mrs Khulayfawi, dear friends: Please allow me to convey to you on behalf of the Romanian delegation, in my own name and on behalf of my wife our sincerest thanks for the kind invitation extended to me to visit Syria and for the warm and friendly reception and hospitality accorded us, as well as for your cordial speech toward our country and the Romanian people. This expresses the feelings of the existing friendship between our two countries and peoples.

The Romanian delegation expresses its satisfaction and extreme pleasure at visiting your country at this extremely important stage of Syria's political and social life--the unanimous reelection of President Hafiz al-Asad as president of Syria for the second time by your entire nation. We wholeheartedly wish President Hafiz al-Asad continued health and happiness, long life and full success in carrying out his sublime responsibility as the leader of the Syrian people.

Our current visit to your country is part of the continued process of developing and strengthening the existing relations between our countries, parties and people as a result of the wise instructions of the leaders of our parties and countries, Presidents Nicolae Ceausescu and Hafiz al-Asad.

The history of Romanian-Syrian relations will put on record the major industrial and agricultural projects, such as the Baniyas refinery, the phosphate fertilizers complex in Homs, the cement factory in Shaykh Sa'id and the irrigation methods as symbols of our friendship, fraternal solidarity and economic cooperation and dealings. The trade exchange between our two countries has been continuously developed and diversified. Positive results have also been achieved in cultural, scientific and technical cooperation. The process of preparing cadres for the various Syrian economic sectors leads these results.

Dear friends, we in Romania are aware of the great successes scored by the fraternal Syrian people in political, social and economic transformation during the 15 years since the assumption of power by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The Romanian people are following with concern the continued progress of your country. The Romanian people, who are pleased with your great accomplishments, send you their heartfelt congratulations and greetings. The Romanian people wish you [word indistinct] in the interest of and for the happiness of the friendly Syrian people.

The Romanian people, under the Romanian Communist Party and with the wise instructions of Comrade Leader Nicolae Ceausescu, work diligently and with strength for the sake of implementing the historic resolutions of the 11th congress and [words indistinct] for the sake of rapidly developing industry, agriculture, education and culture and handling with extreme effectiveness the nation's material and human resources in order to insure the continued increase of individual property and to elevate the standard of the material and spiritual life of all workers in Romania.

Dear friends, it is well known that in addition to the wide-scale activities to draw up the program of the developed socialist society in various fields, Romania is struggling in the international domain diligently and firmly for the sake of the policy of detente and vast cooperation among all peoples in order to build a better and more just world [words indistinct].

As regards its foreign policy, Romania is working firmly to develop relations of friendship and solidarity with all the socialist countries and to expand and diversify relations with the countries which have pursued [words indistinct] regardless of their social systems, in the interest of detente and international cooperation.

Romania is actively contributing to the efforts to achieve a strong system of security and cooperation in Europe and to achieve disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, the settlement of differences by political means and the liquidation of the hotbeds of tension and dispute, in order to build new and democratic relations among the countries and to build a new world political and economic system.

In light of these basic principles, Romania is working diligently for the sake of establishing in the Balkan and the Mediterranean area, the Middle East and the entire world an atmosphere of peace, cooperation, friendship and understanding among the peoples--an atmosphere that constitutes a basic condition for the progress and prosperity of all nations.

The only road that would insure the establishment of a just and lasting peace in this area depends on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories [word indistinct] and the solution of the Palestinian people's problem in accordance with their national ambitions, including the establishment of their independent state.

Romania has stood and still stands firmly against the annexation of the land of others by means of force [words indistinct]. No country should guarantee its own development by gaining the land of others and oppressing other nations and peoples.

Romania [words indistinct] in establishing peace in the Middle East is to reactivate the efforts within the framework of the United Nations in order to expedite the resumption of the Geneva conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, in accordance with the principles of full equality.

Al-Asad Receives Manescu

JN112032Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 1700 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Manea Manescu, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi.

At the beginning of the meeting, Manescu conveyed to President al-Asad the warm greetings of Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and his heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of Al-Asad's reelection as president of the republic. Manescu also delivered to President al-Asad a cordial message from President Ceausescu.

During the meeting, discussion revolved around the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the means of strengthening these relations.

Khulayfawi Receives Manescu

JN112033Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Major General Khulayfawi received Manea Manescu this evening. They held a meeting during which they reviewed the Middle East situation, the latest political developments in the area and relations between the two friendly countries and the means of strengthening and developing these relations.

Syria, Romania Begin Talks

JN121134Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Official talks between the Syrian and Romanian sides began at 1000 today. The Syrian side was headed by the prime minister, Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, and the Romanian side by Prime Minister Manea Manescu.

Damascus Radio on Talks

JN121639Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Official talks began this morning between the Syrian and Romanian sides. The Syrian side was headed by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and the Romanian side by Prime Minister Manea Manescu.

The first round of talks ended at 1300 today. During this meeting they reviewed cooperation relations between the two friendly countries in various investment and economic fields. They also studied the implementation of projects agreed upon by the two countries. They discussed new aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

Further Reports on Talks

JN121939Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Syrian delegation under Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and the Romanian delegation under Prime Minister Manea Manescu at 1830 today resumed talks. During the talks they completed their discussion of the joint cooperation projects and relations of economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. They also discussed future development of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Technical experts of the two sides have been entrusted with following up details of joint cooperation and issues pertaining to projects being carried out in cooperation between the two countries. The talks ended at 2030 today.

DEFENSE MINISTER ADDRESSES STAFF COLLEGE GRADUATES

JN112209Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the armed forces, the staff and command college today graduated the class of the battalion leaders in the various military units. Deputy Commander in Chief and Defense Minister Maj Gen Mustafa Talas deputized for the president. The ceremony was attended by Maj Gen Naji Jamil, deputy defense minister and commander of the air and defense forces; Maj Gen 'Awwad (?Bagh), deputy defense minister; Maj Gen Musban al-Budayri, chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army; heads of the departments in the army command and commanders of the army formations.

In a speech on the occasion, Maj Gen Mustafa Talas said: On this day which is the 15th anniversary of the glorious 8 March Revolution, which was ignited by the Ba'th Party, I convey to you the greetings of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of our great party, and I congratulate you on your success in your class.

The defense minister referred to the trip of shame of the Egyptian ruler to the occupied homeland and said: The trip has placed great responsibilities on Syria and Syria is very pleased to bear these responsibilities. We will be the vanguard of the Arab nation in the struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to regain the usurped rights of the Arab people of Palestine. The minister said that the Syrian Army will be in the forefront of the Arab armies to liberate Jerusalem and the occupied territories and to oppose the plot implemented by As-Sadat with the connivance of the U.S.-Zionist alliance.

Speaking on the role of the Syrian Arab forces in returning peace and stability to fraternal Lebanon and in preserving its integrity and people, the defense minister said: We in the Syrian Arab region, under President Hafiz al-Asad, will raise the banner of steadfastness, and we are convinced that victory will come to the Arab nation through the march of confrontation and opposition to the plots of the enemies of our Arab nation.

At the end of the celebration, Minister Talas and Maj Gen Naji Jamil distributed prizes to the outstanding officers.

PALESTINIANS ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS TO GREET AL-ASAD

JN122048Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] A fraternal Palestinian demonstration was witnessed in Damascus today when a large number of our Palestinian brothers from the inhabitants of Tall az-Za'tar camp in Lebanon arrived to congratulate President Hafiz al-Asad on his reelection, and to congratulate the Syrian people on the 8 March Revolution anniversary. The Palestinian demonstration raised the Syrian and Palestinian flags, portraits of the president and many placards lauding Syrian-Palestinian solidarity, the Palestinian revolution and the unity of struggle. The placards condemned As-Sadat's visit to the occupied homeland and his stands of capitulation. The Tall az-Za'tar Palestinians raised slogans rejecting the projects to settle the Palestinians as a new chapter in the plot against the Palestinians and their revolution, asserting that Lebanon is just a Palestinian path and not a place to settle.

The president later received a delegation representing the popular committee of the Tall az-Za'tar inhabitants. A number of members of the delegation made speeches in which they congratulated the president on his reelection and on the 8 March Revolution anniversary.

The president welcomed them and thanked them for their feelings. He said that we are sons of one nation and Syria does not differentiate among the Arabs. The president said: We were pained because of what happened at Tall-az-Za'tar and everybody knows that despite all the obscurantist campaigns we exerted all our efforts to prevent what heppened. We are sorry that there were victims from the Palestinians who fell not in the service of the Palestinian cause. Explaining the events during that period, the president said: Our stand is clear and principled. A few days ago I told the People's Assembly that the rights of the Palestinians come first and then the rights of the Syrians in the Golan Heights. We repeat this so that everybody will understand.

The president called for awareness. He made it clear that just as our enemies ignited the Lebanese trouble to camouflage the Sinai agreement, they might now try to ignite the bombs, because of what is being hatched now is the liquidation of the Palestinian cause. He said that Syria's stand is firm; it does not take the regional but the pan-Arab view. We have always rejected and will reject any compromise of our dignity and rights.

Concluding, the president entrusted them to convey his good wishes to all the inhabitants of Tall az-Za'tar and to all the Palestinian brothers in Lebanon.

It should be noted that the Tall az-Za'tar march left Lebanon this morning and was met at the border by the members of the regional command of the unified Palestinian organization, the leaders of the Palestine branch [presumably of the Ba'th Party] and representatives of the Palestinian resistance factions.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY PASSES AL-ASAD'S AMNESTY LAW

JN122141Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The People's Assembly met today under its speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and in the presence of a number of cabinet ministers. The meeting began with the submission of the members' questions to the various ministers through the Council of Ministers.

The council then dealt with the draft law presented by the president concerning amnesty with regard to certain crimes. The council decided that the issue was worthy of immediate discussion and transferred it to the Legislative and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly. The session was adjourned to allow the committee to discuss the draft law. The committee approved the law and submitted a report to this effect to the assembly. When the assembly reconvened some members spoke about the importance of the law and emphasized that it is a generous gesture from a generous man and another great deed from the president. The minister of justice spoke about the law and answered questions from the members. At the conclusion of the discussion, the assembly unanimously passed the law.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the speaker thanked the president for this gesture, which will allow certain citizens to return to the fold of the society as good citizens. The session was adjourned until 1800 tomorrow.

DETAINEES NOT INVOLVED IN STATE SECURITY RELEASED

JN101258Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Interior Minister 'Adnan Dabbagh has stated that the Interior Ministry has carried out President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions concerning martial law and detention. He said that all detainees imprisoned according to martial law in cases not related to state security have been released. He said that instructions were issued to the departments concerned to prepare the necessary work to close the loopholes in laws so as to amend them in accordance with President al-Asad's instructions outlined in his speech at the People's Assembly.

Some 179 persons detained under martial laws not related to the state security were released yesterday. This release comes in the wake of President al-Asad's instructions outlined in his speech at the People's Assembly. He asked the organs concerned not to use martial law except in cases harmful to state security.

DAMASCUS RADIO REPORTS AL-ASAD'S UPCOMING VISIT TO INDIA

JN111320Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At the invitation of the President of India and his wife, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and his wife will pay an official and friendly visit to India in the last third of March. His excellency the president will be accompanied by an official delegation.

ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI CALLS MINISTER AHMAD FPOM BRAZIL

JN130900Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Archbishop Hilarion Capucci yesterday called Minister of Information Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad from Brazil to express his participation with the Syrian people in the celebrations marking the anniversary of the 8 March Revolution and to offer his congratulations on the reelection of President Hafiz al-Asad to the post of president.

Archbishop Capucci said: The Arab immigrants he had met in Venezuela and Brazil and to whom he explained the situation in the Arab area had requested him to convey their greetings and love to President Hafiz al-Asad, and they expressed their belief that the Syria of al-Asad represents the Arab nation's steadfastness and its future hope. Archbishop Capucci reaffirmed to the brother immigrants his belief in the unity of Lebanon's Arab people and its territory. He said: Palestine is the homeland of the Palestinians. We shall oppose any conspiracy aimed at settling the Palestinians outside their original homeland.

During his telephone conversation with the minister of information, Archbishop Capucci stated with sorrow and pain that a Lebanese newspaper had published distorted opinions attributed to him about Lebanon and the Palestinians. He said that his belief in Lebanon's unity cannot be shaken and that he will continue to struggle for a unified and prosperous Arab Lebanon, for the victory of the Palestinian revolution and for the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland, Palestine.

ALGERIA

ALGIERS RADIO JUSTIFIES FEDAYEEN ATTACK IN ISRAEL

LD121324Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] While the fedayeen operation has met with the complete satisfaction of various Arab quarters, particularly progressive ones, many Western and imperialist forces, headed by the American administration, rush to condemn this operation, as, for instance, the message sent by U.S. President Jimmy Carter to Tel Aviv Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

It seems that those who are today condemning this fedayeen operation, which reflects the faith of the Palestinians in their return to their homeland, have ignored the annihilation operations carried out by the invading Zionists against the Palestinians themselves, which took the form of the destruction of entire villages in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon and which claimed the lives of thousands of innocent citizens, beginning with the destruction of Dayr Yasin in occupied territory and ending with the Al-'Izziyah village in southern Lebanon.

It has just been reported from Beirut that the enemy administration has begun to amass huge troops on the borders of southern Lebanon. Eyewitnesses said that shelling and helicopters were heard in the area last night. It is believed this could be the sign of a wide scale Zionist aggression against the area.

ASH-SHA'B Lauds Attack

JN121440Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Algiers, 12 March--The Algerian paper ASH-SHA'B has affirmed that the bold operation carried out by the Dayr Yasin group in occupied Palestine yesterday came as a reply to the current negotiations between the leaders of Egypt and Israel, and as a reminder to them that the Palestinian people's destiny is in the hands of the Palestinians and that there can be no peace if their will is not respected.

In its commentary the paper added: The operation has come as a lesson to all those who think that the Palestinian revolution is finished as a military force. It also destroys Israel's vanity, which made it think that dragging Egypt to the stage of capitulation was enough to subjugate the Arabs to its will. The paper added that this operation again puts the solution of the Palestinian question on the right path, affirming that political action at this stage comes to complement military action. The paper warned that Israel will not put up with this blow and will take revenge, either by striking against the Palestinian Fedayeen and refugees in Lebanon or by taking hold of southern Lebanon, according to the theory of protective war.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES CUBAN, SOVIET ENVOYS

LD112213Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Foreign Minister Bouteflika today received the Cuban ambassador to Algeria. They discussed the coordination of both countries' efforts on nonalined problems. He then received the Soviet ambassador to Algeria, who exchanged views on the coming meeting of the Algerian-Soviet cooperation committee.

LIBYA

JANA POLITICAL EDITOR PRAISES FEDAYEEN OPERATION

LD121603Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 12 March--JANA Political Editor has saluted the heroic operation carried out by the Palestinian fedayeen in the depth of the occupied territory, thus debunking the myth of Israeli security and supremacy and its ability to escape punishment.

We have always said, the editor added, that all doors must be opened before the just, legitimate Palestinian struggle, and all capabilities must be placed at its disposal to enable it to strike violently, deep inside the enemy lines, because we know that the enemy society is an artificial one, a broken society founded on oppression, blackmail, exploitation and the domination of the overwhelming majority by a small minority. Hence striking the enemy from within will make him panic and will expose his true face and inflict on him defeat with a minimum of cost and men.

The editor added: As we salute the heroes of the bold fedayeen operation, we are aware that the enemies of the Arab nation will call it an act of terrorism, but we say to them that the operation was an act of retaliation by the Palestinians against their Zionist enemies, beginning with Begin, who is the one primarily responsible for the Dayr Yasin massacre. [passage indistinct]

Terrorism, the JANA editor said, is what the Zionist enemy did when it killed and slaughtered the Palestinian people and drove them out of their homes, and when they attacked Arab villages and towns adjoining Palestine, and when they shot down the Libyan civilian plane.

Let the aggressors and those who support them know that the right will win and that victory is always for the peoples who struggle for freedom and sovereignty in their homelands. As the American terrorists were expelled from southeast Asia and as the Western imperialists were driven out of Africa, Asia and Latin America, the last vestiges of fascist regimes in occupied Palestine, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa are living through their final moments. All the arms they are given and the support they are accorded will be of no avail, because what was founded on evil will always be evil.

JALLUD RECEIVES LEBANESE DELEGATION FOR TALKS

LD121625Y Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 12, JANA--Yesterday afternoon S/Major Jallud met the delegation of the Lebanese national movement headed by Ina'am Ra'ad, the vice president of the Lebanese control political council. During the meeting they discussed the general situation in the Arab world and in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by the head of Arab liaison bureau of the . mahiriyah.

OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED OVER PLANE CRASH

NC121416Y Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Paris, March 12 (AFP)--The Libyan Air Force commander in chief and Communications Secretary Nuri al-Fayturi al-Madani have been arrested, informed Arab sources said here today.

The sources said they were arrested following the helicopter crash on March 6 when all members of a visiting East German delegation and their Libyan counterparts were killed. East German Unified Socialist Party Central Committee and Politburo Member Werner Lamberz was head of the visiting delegation.

AT-TURAYKI RECEIVES CUBAN ECONOMIC MINISTER

LD121857Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1738 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Tripoli--Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki this afternoon received at his office Hector Rodriguez Llompart, Cuban economic cooperation minister, who is now on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. The aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the economic, social and cultural fields were discussed at this meeting. The preparations for the holding of the conference of nonalined states in Cuba was also discussed.

LIBYA TO TAKE PART IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING

LD121905Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will take part in the meetings of the eighth session of the Islamic Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs, which will meet in Jidda 2-6 April. At these meetings the committee will discuss economic, social and cultural topics which the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries will discuss at their ninth session, which will be held in Dakar in April.

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER ELABORATES ON TRADE WITH USSR

LD112303Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Rabat--Prime Minister Ahmad Osman was interviewed by Moroccan radio-television on the Moroccan-Soviet agreements signed during his current visit to Moscow.

"These cooperation agreements in the sphere of phosphates and in that of product exchanges," Mr Osman said, "are of great importance and constitute the most important contract made between a great power and a country of the Third World." The prime minister added: "Among the four agreements signed, it is worth mentioning the long term agreement on economic and technical cooperation in phosphates between the Kingdom of Morocco and the USSR, as well as the special protocol relating to spending regulations linked to the execution of the first stage in the exploitation of the Miskala phosphate deposits, which could have an annual production capacity of 12 million tons.

"These agreements," Mr Osman said, "are based on certain basic principles and cover a period of 30 years. During this period each of the two sides is free to act so as to guarantee its rights. Thus, the royal phosphates office (O.C.P.) is called upon to provide itself with a part of thenecessary equipment from its own resources, should the Soviet offer not be satisfactory."

The prime minister in addition noted that another agreement concerning the exchange of products has been made for 30 years. It provides for the delivery to the USSR of phosphates and phosphate byproducts, and the long term provision of Morocco with chemical products, nitrate fertilizers and primary materials such as oil.

The third agreement, Mr Osman said, relates to the financing of the first stage in the development of the Miskala deposits, as well as the financing of studies for this project, with a credit of about $20 million granted at favorable conditions. The fourth agreement concerns the exchange of products during the period 1978-1980.

Speaking about the discussions he had on Friday morning with the Soviet leaders, Mr Osman said they embraced several bilateral and international issues. "We examined in depth issues relating to our trade relations, and I would like to underline that the trade agreement which will be concluded next year must be renewed and strengthened. This is also the wish of the Soviet side. We also examined the extent of the agreements we concluded, as well as certain international issues concerning our two countries, such as the Middle East," he said in conclusion.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI TO DELIVER SPEECH AT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

NC131921Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1844 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 12 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will deliver a speech at the opening session of the Sudanese People's Assembly tomorrow morning. Before the speech, the assembly is scheduled to hold a proceedings session (jalsat ijra'at), during which the assembly members will be sworn in, and a new speaker, two deputy speakers and an assembly secretary will be appointed.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES LETTER FROM SAUDI KING

LD111859Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Numayri received from King Khalid of Saudi Arabia a letter handed to him this morning by Saudi Ambassador to Khartoum Arab Said Hashim. "SUNA has learned that the letter deals with the current situation and development in the Arab and African areas and the Horn of Africa, as well as the bilateral relations developing between Sudan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

MINISTER OF STATE RECEIVES ETHIOPIAN ENVOY

LD111850Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Dr Francis Deng, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, received Mr Tadesse, the Ethiopian ambassador in Khartoum, at 1330 this afternoon. After the meeting, Dr Deng said that the Ethiopian ambassador, who had recently arrived in Khartoum, briefed him on the results of the meetings which had taken place between the foreign minister of Sierra Leone and the Ethiopian officials, led by Chairman Mengistu. His excellency affirmed that the meetings were consultations on how to implement the decisions of the Freetown agreement.

He also told Dr Deng that the Ethiopian Government welcomed the forthcoming visit of Mr 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of the republic. The ambassador said he was eager that the visit should be successful. He explained to the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry that Chairman Mengistu and other Ethiopian officials were eager to have a visit from the under secretary in the Sudanese Foreign Ministry in order to make procedural and objective preparations to insure greater positive results, since this will be the first visit at a high level since the deterioration of relations between the two countries.

TERRORISTS ARRIVE BY SEA, STOPPED NEAR TEL AVIV

IDF Announcement

TA111721Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1716 GMT 11 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Here is an announcement from the IDF spokesman. The announcement says the following: Toward evening a terrorist unit infiltrated via the sea and landed on the beach and is now located in the region of the country club north of Tel Aviv. The IDF spokesman says that IDF and police forces have closed the region and are acting to overcome the terrorists. All drivers are asked to evacuate the Tel Aviv-Haifa road and Geha road west of Petah Tiqwa.

This is the IDF spokesman.

Bombing Lebanon Denied

TA112115Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 11 Mar 78 TA

[Text] An hour ago the IDF spokesman rejected outright a report broadcast by the BBC according to which airforce planes attacked targets in Lebanon at dusk. The report was broadcast about 2 hours ago.

Terrorists' Plans Revealed

NC121030Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the terrorists had planned to take over a large hotel in Tel Aviv and to seize hostages in order to bring about the release of five terrorists interned in Israel. Among the interned are Kozo Okamoto; a terrorist named Musa Jum'ah, who was caught in the Savoy Hotel operation; and a female terrorist. The terrorists had also planned to demand that two ambassadors--the British and Romanian--as well as the UN representative in Israel be brought to the hotel to be held as hostages. Later they planned to demand a UN plane to convey them, the hostages and their released colleagues to Damascus.

Leaflets Found

NC120935Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports that the terrorists possessed Kalashnikov rifles, Czechoslovak-made mortar rounds, Soviet-made handgrenades, RPG launchers, a large quantity of explosive material, pistols, M-16 rifles and 52-mm mortars.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says that leaflets in broken Hebrew were found in the possession of the terrorists. The leaflets say that their objective was to release their brothers languishing in Israeli prisons. The leaflets also state the demands of the terrorists. The leaflets were signed by the victims of Kafr Qasim Group.

Arab Workers Stopped

NC120946Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Security forces have set up roadblocks and have prevented the entry of Arab workers from Samaria to Israel today. Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that some 40,000 Arab workers from the administered territories are employed in Israel, but many of them chose not to go to work today.

Thousands of Arab workers from the triangle villages did not go out to work today, although no restrictions on movement were in force in the area. The Jordan bridges have been closed to traffic.

Diplomatic Moves Announced

NC1210347 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0955 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today instructed Israeli diplomatic missions abroad to ask the foreign ministers of states which maintain diplomatic relations with Israel to withdraw their recognition of the PLO if those states recognize the PLO. The Foreign Ministry asked for the closure of PLO offices which might exist in these states.

Israeli missions abroad also asked members of parliament to initiate resolutions condemning the carnage and calling for the withdrawal of recognition of the PLO.

Foreign Ministry circles added that Israel wants to continue the peace process, but it should not be expected to sit down for negotiations with an organization which commits such acts of murder.

Our political correspondent Yosi La'or adds that the foreign minister has transmitted to Israeli diplomatic missions abroad details of the terrorist attack and information about past terrorist attacks in order to be used as a basis for Israeli information abroad.

Prime Minister's Statement

NC1212117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1130 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Statement by Prime Minister Menahem Begin at a press conference in Jerusalem on 12 March--live]

[Text] The number of Israeli citizens--men, women, and children--who were killed by the murderers is 37. The number of wounded is 76, including some seriously wounded. Eleven murderers reached the Israeli coast yesterday after being trained for the mission entrusted to them by someone called Abu Jihad, who is the head of the military branch of the organization known as Fatah. This organization is headed by Yasir 'Arafat, who was received with applause at the plenum of the United Nations.

The murderous terrorists landed on the sea coast and met a young woman. They questioned her and then killed her. They continued on to the highway, where they seized a taxi and killed its passengers. They then seized a bus and ordered the driver to continue driving toward Tel Aviv. On the way they saw a second bus ahead of them. They ordered the driver, under threat of murder by two terrorists, to pass the second bus. When they were close to the second bus, the terrorists opened fire on the passengers, killing and wounding a number of them. Then they left the bus they had seized and under the threat of arms they forced the passengers of the second bus to transfer to the first bus.

The final account says that when the bus met a roadblock, a battle took place at that spot. The terrorists used all the Soviet-made types of weapons in their possession, including a mortar, RPGs, and other such lethal weapons. After the carnage, the burial group found 25 bodies burned beyond recognition inside the bus.

At its meeting today the Israeli Cabinet expressed its condolences to the bereaved families. The sacred people killed are the victims of our people's battle of survival in the land of Israel, from which scoundrels are trying to uproot us. This they shall not do.

We wish the wounded a quick and complete recovery.

I have a special request and appeal to the people residing in the area in which a curfew has been imposed. I ask all the citizens to understand that this has been done for their own sake and for their security. We have grounds to assume that three terrorists equipped with all sorts of lethal weapons are still at large in this area. The security forces are exerting every effort to capture them. We have taken this measure in order to defend you and your children. We know that these murderers stop at nothing. They could attack any man, woman or child. We shall lift the curfew for the next 3 hours--from 1400 to 1700--and will maintain the curfew until tomorrow for your security, citizens, Accept this hard measure with love.

The boats on which the murderous terrorist arrived are of Soviet make. They are called Zodiac. The weapons with which they were equipped were mainly Soviet-made. Let the Kremlin rulers, who saw what the Nazis in Europe committed against the Jewish people, learn what are they prepared to do for the sake of so-called political interests, through this murderous organization called Fatah or the PLO, to the remnants of the Jewish people.

Let all the free world see to what level communism has descended by supplying lethal weapons to such murderers.

For years we have been trying to explain to the world that there has not been such a despicable arms-bearing organization as Fatah or the PLO since the days of the Nazis. They have only one aim: To kill the Jews. According to the instructions they received in Lebanon, they were supposed to seize hostages and, under the threat of murdering all of them, to force us to submit to their demands. In their leaflet they explicitly threaten us that unless we accept their demands--had they seized those hostages--they would murder the hostages. All they did was to kill Jews--women, men and children. Since the day of the hostile Nazi organizations, no organization as degraded as this has arisen. This is the same organization which produced the so-called Palestinian Charter which says that the State of Israel must be liquidated. It is the same organization which was recognized by the Arab states in Rabat as the exclusive representative of all the Palestinian Arabs.

The lessons for the future are self-evident. We express the wish--if not the hope--that all nations, near and far, will indeed learn the lesson inherent in this bloody act of horror.

As for my visit to the United States which was scheduled to begin today--the foreign minister and myself were scheduled to leave this morning for New York and continue for Washington tomorrow to begin talks with the U.S. President, the secretary of state, and their advisers--I have asked our ambassador in Washington and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Israel to convey to the U.S. President my regrets that the foreign minister and myself will not be able to leave the country this week. Furthermore, I asked that the President be informed that we hope we can pay the visit and hold our talks during the coming week. The date will be set through contacts between the two governments.

We have received condolences and messages sharing in the bereavement of the families from the U.S. President, the British prime minister and the UN secretary general. We thank them all for their sentiments. When I received the cable from the U.S. President I asked the U.S. charge d'affaires to convey my thanks for President Carter's heartfelt words.

Begin Press Conference

NC121345Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Prime Minister Begin's press conference at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 12 March--live]

[Text] [Question--in Hebrew] Do you think the current negotiations with Egypt will be affected by yesterday's terrorist attack?

[Answer--in Hebrew] Although the negotiations have been suspended, in accordance with the Egyptian Government's decision, we still have contacts with Egypt. Yesterday I received another message from Egyptian President as-Sadat. I told the U.S. charge d'affaires, who delivered this message to me, that I will answer the message after my return from the United States. If there is a willingness on the part of Egypt to conclude an agreement with Israel and to bring about peace between us--if there is such a willingness--such a bloody event must not prevent concrete negotiations for signing a peace treaty.

[Question--in Hebrew] After what happened yesterday in the terrorist attack, do you expect, Mr Prime Minister, to find greater understanding from the United States for Israel's position when you visit next week?

[Answer--in Hebrew] I hope that in view of this bloody incident, all people of good will will appreciate our fundamental position vis-a-vis the demands being voiced these days. These demands are the result of an underestimation of human intelligence and of a disavowal of the human term dating from the time of Woodrow Wilson of self-determination for peoples. I hope they will appreciate our position more--that is, that it is out of the question for a state to be established in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza which will be controlled by Yasir 'Arafat and his murderers. In fact, this is the demand which is being made to us these days--at times directly and other times indirectly. Our position is known and has been stated for many years. Such a state poses a threat to our people and to the existence of our state.

[Question--in English] Mr Prime Minister, were there any casualties, any killed, among the Israeli police and Israeli Defense Forces?

[Answer--in English] There are nine policemen wounded. One reserve policeman--a student who had volunteered for service--was killed.

[Question--in Hebrew] Did the security authorities display a sufficient degree of alertness to prevent the infiltration of the murderers? Do you know what degree of efficiency the security forces in Israel displayed against the murderers?

[Answer--in Hebrew] The problem posed by your questions will be looked into.

[Question--in English] Mr Prime Minister, have you received any requests from foreign statesmen, particularly from President Carter, asking that Israel exercise restraint as a result of this attack? That is to say, have you been urged not to conduct any reprisals?

[Answer--in English] I got a message of deep and heartfelt condolences from the President of the United States. May I now make a correction: On one count I have to correct my statement. I got in the morning the information that the Zodiac is Soviet-made, it is not, it is Frenchmade. But the weapons which were used by the killers, almost all of them are Sovietmade. So my call upon the leaders of the Kremlin stands. But with that correction concerning Zodiac.

[Question--in English] Mr Prime Minister, considering the complicated logistics in this terrorist challenge that you face, can the State of Israel cope, in operational terms, to either reduce or eliminate this constant threat to the people of Israel?

[Answer--in English] We shall eliminate this constant threat. We shall defend our people. Our fight for existence will be victorious.

[Question--in English] Mr Prime Minister, can you yet evaluate what influence yesterday's events will have on your trip to the United States and Israel's efforts toward peace in the Middle East?

[Answer--in English] I already said in Hebrew, answering the question of one of your colleagues, that we assume, we hope--I cannot do more--that in the wake of this outrage and atrocity, people of good will all over the world will better understand and appreciate our stand as far as that misuse of the famous concept of national self-determination, the Wilsonian concept--concerning our land and our security and our lives. For the last few years we are asked to make it possible to form the so-called Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. We are still asked to do so, either directly or indirectly, under the cloak of that misused concept in these days because national self-determination is a sacred right for nations, not for fractions of nations, fractions of nations which threaten to destory a nation, as it is written in that famous or infamous charter of Mr 'Arafat's organization. We believe no additional outrage was necessary to make it clear that such a Palestinian state would be a mortal danger to our people and to our country. We want to hope that now more people of good will in many a country will understand and appreciate our stand.

[Question--in Hebrew] Mr Begin, can you answer in general terms the question of whether the government has decided to adopt measures in order to restrict the freedom of action of the terrorists in our neighboring countries?

[Answer--in Hebrew] The government should be left to make its decisions.

[Question--in English] Mr Begin, the terrorists have now launched attacks both on Egypt and Israel. Is there any possibility of Israel and Egypt cooperating in the fight against terrorism?

[Answer--in English] This question should be put to Cairo.

[Question--in English] Mr Prime Minister, after every big terrorist attack in the past Israel has retaliated militarily by going over the border and hitting PLO targets in Lebanon. Will this pattern continue? Will there be military retaliations?

[Answer--in English] I suppose you will understand that such a question cannot be answered. And I think that you will accept my reply today. What I can say is that those who kill Jews in our time cannot enjoy impunity.

[Question--in English] Mr Prime Minister, has it been determined for sure that the terrorists did come from Lebanon and whether...

[Begin interjecting in English] Will you please repeat slowly the question?

[Question--in English] Has it been determined that the terrorists did indeed come from Lebanon and were there any Israeli Arabs involved in the attack?

[Answer--in English] They came from Lebanon. No Israeli Arabs were involved.

[Question--in English] Do you expect that President Carter will change his position on the issue of the settlements as a result of yesterday's attack?

[Answer--in English] Cannot I say that such a question about a certain attitude by the President of the United States should be put to him. How can I answer on his oehalf? But this is a completely different problem from all points of view. We are now, after this tragedy of our people, after this atrocity and today we shall deal with the horrible act, bloody act perpetrated in our country, the result of which is we have 37 bereaved families.

[Announcer--in Hebrew] Is there room for Egyptian-Israeli cooperation in combating terrorism, the prime minister was asked. Ask Cairo, Mr Begin answers. Mr Begin is now answering questions about a military reprisal by Israel. Let us hear the question in Hebrew.

[Question--in Hebrew] Mr Prime Minister, has yesterday's act brought any change in your political evaluations and opinions regarding the negotiations to achieve peace in the region.

[Answer--in Hebrew] No murder is needed to harden my views. My views are the views of the majority of the people in Israel, and they remain correct if we are to defend our people in Israel, and they remain correct if we are to defend our people, maintain our security and insure the future of our children. But I assume that after this bloodshed and this big carnage, people of good will will be found in various parts of the world who will appreciate our position and understand it better.

[Question--in English] Mr Prime Minister, can I return to a question which you left unanswered before. Has the United States, through any personality, suggested to Israel that you refrain from countermeasures or reprisals?

[Answer--in English] I already told you that the only message I received from the President of the United States was a message of deep human condolences. Full stop.

[Question--in English] Has anyone else tried to contact you?

[Answer--in English] No. Of course, also the secretary of state expressed his deep regret and his condolences on behalf of himself and his colleagues.

[Question--in Hebrew] Mr Prime Minister, has the government decided to conduct state funerals for the dead? Will the prime minister attend some of them?

[Answer--in Hebrew] The IDF Burial Society will conduct the funeral services. The cabinet and myself will attend.

[Question--in English] Mr Begin, could you tell us a little more about those two prisoners whom you are holding and what you are going to do with them?

[Answer--in English] They will be brought to justice.

[Question--in English] Mr Begin, is your government reconsidering or has it reconsidered any part of its negotiating position as a result of this act of terror?

[Answer--in English] I already answered the question concerning Egypt. Actually, the negotiations were interrupted by the order of President as-Sadat, withdrawing the Egyptian delegation from the Political Committee. But the Military Committee held a session. And we have another context. President as-Sadat sent to me a letter. I answered him. Yesterday I got a reply to my reply. So we have a personal contact for the time being in writing. If it will transpire that Egypt wants serious negotiations to conclude peace treaties, then the bloody events which took place yesterday should not and will not, from our point of view, stop such negotiations.

[Question--in English] Mr Prime Minister, do you know how heavily armed and what kind of weapons the three who are loose are carrying?

[Answer--in English] We do know. RPG, light mortars, submachineguns, handgrenades, ammunition. There were ropes with which they bound the hands of our brethern in the bus, and we found those ropes on the hands of the people killed on the bus. So we can only arrive at the conclusion that they first bound our men, women and then killed them.

[Question--in English] Mr Begin, [words indistinct]

[Answer--in English] I am sorry, I didn't hear exactly your question. Would you please put it clearer, shorter and louder?

[Question--in English] When President as-Sadat lost his good friend to the terrorists, along with a lot of Egyptian soldiers, I believe you sent a letter of condolences to him and the Egytpian people. Has President as-Sadat, thus far, sent a letter to you and the people of Israel?

[Answer--in English] No, I didn't get any message from President as-Sadat on what happened yesterday. I didn't send a letter to President as-Sadat after the outrage at Larnaca. But I expressed publicly our condolences to him and to the Egyptian people.

[Question--in Hebrew] Mr Begin, do you view As-Siba'i's murder in Cyprus and the attack yesterday as one event which has been brought about by the two sides in order to kill the peace initiative of President as-Sadat and Israel?

[Begin--in Hebrew] No, I do not think there is a connection between these two bloody events. I will say it simply: We might have different concepts but the murderers who came to us did not hit a known man. In Larnaca they chose somebody, it is true, who was President as-Sadat's personal friend and killed him, and this is horrifying. But when we are discussing the bloodbath that took place here, as you can see, their whole intent was to kill a Jew because he is a Jew. At the beach they ran into a young girl. According to what I was told, she was 19. She was sitting innocently on the beach, watching. They questioned her and then killed her. Why? Because she was a Jewess. Then they got on a bus and from both sides fired on every car in order to kill every passerby. They came to kill Jews. They are Nazis and they carried out a Nazi act. If they could afford it, they would have exterminated all the Jews in Erez Yisra'el. But they cannot and will not manage it.

I say to our people in the homeland in Erez Yisra'el and in the diaspora: this is a terrible day in our life, but we should be strong. This cruel and bloodthirsty enemy wishes to break our spirit. He will not succeed. The Jewish people are experienced in enemy attacks as well as in agonies. These people have proven the strength in their spirit and won.

I call upon all the Jews: be strong and tenacious in these days. We shall overcome. With the help of God, we shall overcome. We shall insure the future of our sons in our country, the security of our people, and we shall see to it that conditions exist so that no scoundrel will be able to put his bloody hand on any man, woman and child in Israel. Be strong and tenacious, we shall overcome.

Weizman Press Conference

TA1214517 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 12 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Weizman, who had been called by the prime minister to return home immediately, arrived at the airport a few minutes ago. Our correspondent Yo'av Qarni is at the airport and we are transferring you to him now:

The defense minister has just arrived and is beginning to speak.

[Weizman] I am still not briefed and not updated by the chief of staff, who met me by the airplane, so that I cannot tell you anything about the present situation. I can only tell you that the prime minister will travel to the United States and I do hope that, or rather, if he travels to the United States he will of course meet with President Carter. There is much to talk about andI think there is also room for clarifications. I assess that there is also a high probability of reaching conclusions, partly positive, partly negative. I have in fact interrupted my visit close to its conclusion. However, several conclusions I had to reach there regarding the affairs of the Defense Ministry were going to become clearer only on Tuesday upon the arrival of the prime minister and my return to Washington [from New York]. So, even in the sphere of the Defense Ministry the conclusions are partial. They are positive in part, in part negative and in part still not decided by the Americans. This is more or less what I had to tell you now. I am prepared for two or three very quick questions and then I must hurry away from the airport.

[Question] Mr Weizman, you said that you hoped [words indistinct] will be held at the prime minister's house. Is this not certain?

[Answer] I do not know. I said this because I simply do not know. I have not been in communication for 12 hours now. It may be already agreed. I have simply just landed in cloudy and rainy weather.

[Question] Will, in your opinion, the terrorists attack influence the position of the U.S. administration regarding Israeli demands, requirements, or positions?

[Answer] This is a question I was asked at least 60 times in the United States before my departure, and justly so. I seized the opportunity of clarifying in the United States several things pertaining to general issues of state. There is still much to clarify there.

I, at any rate, pointed out to the adminstration--I spoke on the telephone with both Secretary Vance and Secretary of Defense Brown when I took my leave from them before my departure--you can very easily now, to our great regret and misfortune, point to what happens when we have at our side an Arab area, unfriendly to make an understatement, and fanatic no doubt, and may [words indistinct]. Although basically the U.S. administration has very clear ideas on certain matters. Even clear ideas may, however, be concluded. [as heard]

[Question] Mr Weizman, regarding the U.S. positions--what are the major differences of opinion today that are still left between us and the United States?

[Answer] Look, Dan, I would not want at the moment, at Lod, to give a lengthy survey on the matter. I think it is both right and polite that I first talk with the prime minister. I also believe that it is also appropriate that he first goes to the United States. So, do not ask me questions on this matter. There are differences of opinion--more substantive and less substantive ones. There are things that can be clarified and positively concluded.

[Question] Regarding the terrorist act, Mr Weizman, do you believe that there is a way to prevent terrorist acts such as the one which happened yesterday?

[Answer] Look, this is a question we have been asking ourselves for 30 years and the answer is yes. However, the answer yes can be clear cut when dealing with black and white matters, and this matter is not one of white and black. There are various problems involved in this subject called the terrorists in Lebanon. Nevertheless, if it were possible to prevent this incident or not, it is permature for me to say since I have avoided receiving telephone reports on an open line from Israel and I will now run to the general headquarters and sit with the chief of staff, director of the military intelligence, the head of the operations branch in the general headquarters and IDF major generals. I will hear reports and will be better able to answer such a question after a few hours.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Mr Weizman, do you hold Lebanon responsible too?

[Answer] I hold responsible every place from which terrorists come in the manner in which they came or in any other manner.

[Question] Do you think that it was a mistake to leave Lebanon...

[Answer] Dan, do me a favor, I have asked something and respect what I requested.

All Terrorists Discovered

TA1219477 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 12 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The spokesman of the IDF and the spokesman of the police announce the lifting of the curfew imposed last night for the purpose of the searches for the terrorist group. The action taken to reconstruct the incident and identify the corpses of the terrorists was completed early in the evening. The investigation has been completed and all five corpses of the terrorists that had left the bus prior to its explosion were identified. It has finally been made clear that there are no more free or hiding terrorists.

Therefore, no danger faces the public any longer. The general headquarters and the national headquarters of the police thank the public for its cooperation with the combing and searching forces. The curfew has ended then and those terrorists that were not hit were caught.

CABINET TO MEET, SET UP INQUIRY COMMITTEES

TA130558Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The cabinet is meeting again this morning for an extraordinary meeting to hear an updated report on the terrorist attack. Last night the search for the three terrorists still unaccounted for was called off when experts established that they were among the dead on the burned-out bus.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Begin ordered the army and the police to set up top-level committees of inquiry to review the sequence of events and the actions taken by the forces. The army inquiry is to be headed by a reserve general.

According to the newspaper HA'AREZ there is dissatisfaction with the way the forces operated and the battle at the country club has been described as improvised with poor coordination between the forces involved.

The Knesset is also meeting today to hear a report on the terrorist action.

AMBASSADOR DINITZ DISCUSSES BEGIN TRIP, TERRORIST ATTACK

TA130729Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Our correspondent in New York, Dan Shilon, talked with Ambassador Simcha Dinitz about the intended visit of the prime minister following the terrorist act the day before yesterday. [begin recording]

[Dinitz] The talks will be held next week, when the prime minister gets here. There will probably be various issues on which we agree with the U.S. Government. On other issues we are divided. I do not know what substantive effect the terrorist attack will have on the talks, although I assume that there should and probably will be more sensitivity to the security issue.

[Question] One of the television networks reported this evening that the opposition in the Congress to the triangular arms deal has apparently increased in the wake of the terrorist attack the day before yesterday. Do you share the assessment that it is possible now to stop this deal?

[Answer] I do not know. The Congress does not meet during the weekend, as you well know. I happened to speak with several senators and a congressman today. They surely shared the shock and outrage we have all experienced. You probably heard that 2 days ago the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate sent a letter to the President, with the signatures of most of its members, a letter objecting to the triangular arms deal. I think that it is natural to think that those who follow the tragedy that took place in Israel are surely more aware of Israel's security needs and the danger that Israel may face from increasing and strengthening enemies before they enter negotiations and before they sign peace with Israel.

[Question] Last question, Mr Ambassador. In the wake of assessments spread in Washington last week to the effect that there is apparently a possibility that the administration will agree to go in the direction of a separate Israeli-Egyptian agreement in return for certain Israeli declarations, is this possibility more realistic now?

[Answer] It is hard to tell. These things will be decided in the talks held between the prime minister and the President. I think that there had been a tendency in the U.S. administration, even before the horrible tragedy which took place in Israel, to think that the settlement should be comprehensive indeed but that those elements or components of the settlement that refuse to enter the process of negotiations should not be given the right of veto. I think that one thing should be clear: all talk about a Palestinian entity or a Palestinian state or a public referendum, or whatever you choose to call it, will not find, I hope, attentive ears among the policymakers since the terrible tragedy gave as an illustration of a hundred witnesses that can point to what Israel is facing and the dangers lurking for it if it ever has to shrink again into a narrow coastal strip of several miles and defend the lives of its citizens from this strip. [end recording]

RESTRICTIONS ON ARABS IN JUDAEA, SAMARIA LIFTED

TA130634Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] With the lifting of the curfew in the central district yesterday, the military authorities decided to remove the prohibition on the residents of the territories moving into the areas within the boundaries of the green line. As of this morning the residents of the territories will be able to return to work in Israel. The Jordan bridges will be reopened for traffic at 0800.

MINISTER WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED BEFORE TALKS WITH CARTER

TA101909Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 10 Mar 78 TA

[Interview with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman by television correspondent Dan Shilon in Washington at the Watergate Hotel on 10 March, prior to Weizman's meeting with President Carter]

[Text] A few hours before he left for the White House to meet with President Carter the defense minister talked with our correspondent. Mr Weizman was careful with his answers and said that he will maintain silence on certain issues until the prime minister arrives in the United States on the day after tomorrow. At the same time, the defense minister said that he gained the impression that the Americans believe that it is possible to arrive at a separate agteement between Israel and Egypt, despite the lengthy process, and that it is possible to renew the direct contact between us and the Egyptians. Our correspondent Dan Shilon talks with the defense minister in his room in the Watergate Hotel. [begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, the official part of your visit is about to end. You will be meeting with the U.S. President in about an hour. On which points did you find U.S. agreement with Israel positions?

[Answer] First, in the importance of U.S. participation in responsibility for Israel's security, and we submitted Matmon C [defense procurement list]. We submitted our demands and requests and our ideas. I believe that we will get answers today. I am sure that some of them will be positive.

I have no doubt that some of them will be negative and as you said--quite rightly--after I have seen the President I expect even more precise answers. It should also be remembered that the prime minister will be arriving here next week and if my official visit is ending today, the prime minister's official visit will be beginning next week and it has great importance.

[Question] We will come back to the prime minister's visit. On political issues where do you find U.S. agreement with Israel?

[Answer] The political field is very complex. The political field is not simple. We are now at the height of a dispute on several issues--this is not simple. I had long and exhaustive discussions with the secretary of defense and with Mr Vance. I believe that they feel that it is possible to achieve a settlement with the Egyptians alone but this involves a lot of work and much joint thought and, I hope, with the prime minister's arrival--and I wish to reiterate the importance of the prime minister's meeting--these issues will be clarified.

[Question] Are you prepared to be more specific about the points of dispute in the political sphere between Israel and the United States?

[Answer] I do not really want to point to the issues in dispute prior to our meetings next week because it might be that what I regard as a dispute might be clarified by the prime minister next week. Of course, there is the problem of Judaea and Samaria. I stressed to both secretaries--and if I have the opportunity, and I believe I will--I will stress this to the president, that no party--no major party--in the State of Israel--those that comprise the coalition as well as the Labor Party--have ever said that they would leave Judaea and Samaria. There is this dispute, there are others, but there are various solutions. If the United States thinks that the formula of a return to 1967 with minor changes is still valid in 1978, then it is wrong.

[Question] Resolution 242--does it, in principle, include a withdrawal from territories, including Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] I think that 242 can be kept within our old formula. We accept 242 and when we get to the negotiating table we will discuss it with whoever is prepared to discuss it with us.

[Question] From where and how strongly did you feel U.S. criticism on the settlement issue?

[Answer] I heard criticism not about the fact that settlement is being carried out, but about the manner in which it is being done. I tried to remove the settlement issue from the focus into which they put it and I tried--I think with success--to remove the issue from the fundamental problems that exist between us and the Arabs, between us and the United States, and I tried mainly to stand on our security issue.

[Question] Mr Weizman, did you feel that the Egyptian claims are falling on more sympathetic ears here in the United States?

[Answer] I would not use the word claims. There is, however, no doubt that As-Sadat's visit made a definite impression here. As a certain American told me today, it is no longer important what an important American says in the United States, it is what As-Sadat says that is important. This is something that has to be taken into account. I tried to stress--and I think with quite a lot of success--that in the euphoria around As-Sadat moves and deeds, with all my respect for them--moves that we have made are being forgotten.

The prime minister's move and that of the entire government where we went more than half way on the Sinai issue, even under strong criticism within Israel, has been forgotten, and both in Congress and in the Senate--I did this at least three times yesterday--I am trying to stress that As-Sadat made a move which, from his point of view, is a gross deviation from Egyptian policy until now, to our joy, while we made certain serious changes which are not being appreciated and which can certainly be compared with As-Sadat's move.

[Question] How do you explain the erosion in U.S. public opinion?

[Answer] Look, I do not want to submit a professional opinion on how, over the years, one influences public opinion. There is no doubt that we have a lot of basic and long-term work ahead to regain public opinion which is so essential and which has always been so positive toward Israel. All in all, wherever you go--to the Senate, to Congress, to the press, to the State Department, to the Department of Defense--you can feel strong support and love for Eretz Yisra'el, as well as a hint that there has been a slight erosion on this issue. I think that there is a lot to do, in all our moves up to now [as heard] and in the moves that have to be made in the future.

[Question] Can this be achieved, as well as U.S. understanding for Israeli positions, in view of the Israeli Government's continued present policy? That is to say, to continue this policy and to achieve U.S. understanding?

[Answer] Look, I think that the Israeli Government policy is right. I am a member of the government. If I thought that it was wrong I might reach conclusions. I think that certain tactical moves could have been made in another manner and the time has certainly come for us to sit and discuss certain principles, but mainly paths of action rather than basic ideas.

[Question] In retrospect, after 30 years, now that direct negotiations between Israel and Egypt have been achieved, was it wise to return the ball to the Americans and ask their mediation in the negotiations? I am referring to the process which began with the prime ministers arrival here, when he submitted his peace plan?

[Answer] His arrival here was wise, because, after all, you cannot ask all that you should ask from the United States and get it. We should remember that to this day, since the Yom Kippur war, since 1974, we have received military aid, either free or in the form of comfortable loans, to the tune of $6 billion. This is no insignificant sum. This is not peanuts. This is not given by an unfriendly country. Therefore, I think that the prime minister's move in coming here then was correct in the relations that we want to exist and hope to achieve between us and the United States. On the other hand, I think that direct negotiations between us and the Egyptians are a necessity.

[Question] Some senators have proposed that it might be better if Mr Begin did not come here.

[Answer] I have not heard this. No one has told me this, it is not true. It is possible that one or another senator--yesterday I met with 35 senators--very important ones--we sat around a table with coffee and tea and tasty cakes and the situation was not so unsavory. [as heard]

[Question] Is there a possibility that the Americans will apply pressure on Israel?

[Answer] I cannot say this with any certainty. I do not believe that there will be pressure in the accepted sense of the word, where they will say we promised you F-15's, you will not get F-15's or, we promised you $1 billion in aid and you will only get $100 million. I think that we will simply enter an unpleasant atmosphere if next week we do not succeed in clearing the atmosphere, and I hope we do. I have grounds to believe that the prime minister has great possibilities to clarify the situation and our positions and to reach a common view with the Americans. To say that if this is not the case there will be pressure is simplifying things too much.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, the dispute that broke out between you and the prime minister has been especially prominent in all that concerns Israeli domestic policies.

[Answer] Between me and the prime minister?

[Question] I am talking about the famous dispute over the telephone.

[Answer] There is no dispute between me and the prime minister. Sometimes the prime minister and I exchange ideas; however, there is no dispute.

[Question] Where do things stand at the moment?

[Answer] They stand with the fact that he will be arriving at Kennedy Airport on Sunday and I will meet him and the foreign minister there and I assume that we will immediately get down to discussing and reaching positions for our meeting with President Carter next Tuesday.

[Question] Over and above what was leaked from that telephone conversation and without any connection with the prime minister, is there not a deeper difference of opinion between ministers than just over tactics?

[Answer] Tactical disputes are much more simple than fundamental disputes. I do not think that there is a fundamental dispute. Look, we are a group consisting of various movements and undoubtedly, from time to time, various tacticians surface. I hope that we have all learned a lesson, including myself, and next week we will have to pull our socks up and see the real problems that the people of Israel face and not the personal problems that each of us faces.

[Question] You feel that the government is working harmoniously?

[Answer] Every orchestra can play better. I hope that the conductor will conduct it as he has done until now. The problem now is not only the government's functioning but the fundamental and important problems--I almost said difficult--that we face in our relations with the United States, in the negotiations with Egypt and in the basic conceptions of the direction that the people of Israel are following.

[Question] To end, Mr Defense Minister, you leave Washington tonight. Are you more encouraged than when you came here?

[Answer] This is not a question of being or not being encouraged. I am about to meet Secretary Vance and Secretary Brown in a few minutes and then I will meet with the U.S. President. It will certainly be an interesting talk. I am geared up for it. I assess that after the three talks this morning I will be able to conclude where we have been successful and where we have not been successful over the past few days. Undoubtedly, the prime minister's meeting will resolve certain issues. All in all, there is no reason not to be encouraged.

[Question] Thank you. [end videotape]

MARK SIEGEL TALKS TO ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT

NC111445Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Now, back to Washington and the resignation of presidential adviser Mark Siegel in protest over U.S. policy toward Israel. In this interview Siegel, for the first time, agrees to talk freely about why he handed in his resignation to Jimmy Carter. [begin recording]:

[Siegel] No one incident or event caused me to make my decision. The decision was a cumulative one. Various things have occurred over the last few months and specifically over the last few weeks that had made me realize that I could no longer in good conscience maintain my position with the administration, defending and explaining administration positions on the Middle East that I cannot agree with and had no role in shaping.

[Question] What in particular distrubed you about the Carter Administration's policy toward the Middle East?

[Answer] Well, first I was concerned very much with the process by which decisions were made. Very clearly I am sympathetic toward Israel, I always have been, and that is very obvious around here. But I think my views are consistent with the views of the Democratic Party and the American electorate in general. Therefore in the decision-making process those views should have access and should be part of the process, and I didn't think that my views were being considered adequately.

[Question] Were you particularly disturbed, sir, by the warplane deal with Saudi Arabia and Egypt?

[Answer] I was particularly disturbed by that. I did everything I could to prevent it, over a period of weeks, before the decision was made public. I was very concerned about the packaging of the Israeli component of that arms sale with the Egyptian and the Saudi Arabian components. I am extremely concerned about what this does to the Sinai-II commitments to Israel that were made by the United States. I believe that I had been given misinformation about the Saudi Arabian part of the arms sales package, specifically with respect to the Saudi base at Tabuk and the offensive capabilities of the F-15. All those things entered into my decision.

[Question] What misinformation are you referring to sir?

[Answer] I was assured that Tabuk was not military, that there was no American military aid at all at Tabuk, nor did it have a military capability, and I now have information that makes me very clearly understand that I was misled.

[Question] And that the F-15's might be stationed at Tabuk?

[Answer] I now have information that there are Hawks at Tabuk now. That Hawk Triads are going to be put at Tabuk, that it is a military airbase and is being enlarged, that bunkers are being built, that American aid is being used for the construction of paratroop schools and paratroop barracks, and this leads me to think with some degree of--well, it makes me think logically that since its location is immediately south of Elat and in light of all this construction activity that it could be used as a takeoff point for expeditionary attacks on Israel and I don't see any other utility for Tabuk where it is.

[Question] Is the Carter administration trying to put pressure on Israel at this time, Mr Siegel?

[Answer] Well, some of the public statements by some people in this administration have been particularly harsh and brutal, and I think disfunctional. I don't think the President himself is attempting to pressure Israel per se, but I am very concerned about the tone of the comments and criticisms being made against Israel, and I no longer in good conscience can be part of that.

[Question] There is concern here about some of the comments by National Security Adviser Brzezinski. Have you also been concerned by some of his comments?

[Answer] I have.

[Question] Which in particular, sir?

[Answer] At a meeting on February 23d which I organized because of my role with the Jewish community in trying to service that constituency, Dr Brzezinski made some comments that were offensive to the people in the audience and were certainly offensive to me. He at one point indicated to some of the questioners that he does not--he does no longer consider their views or accept their views. At another point he said that the world and the United States stand united against Israel with respect to settlements. I find that very distressing because of the language he used and what that might mean and the signal he might be giving to these people who had been brought in to be reassured about U.S. policy and commitment to Israel. It was a very unfortunate meeting.

[Question] Do you think President Carter also shares Brzezinski's views?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Has he said he doesn't or do you have any indication that he doesn't?

[Answer] I have a long relationship with President Carter and I think I know him extremely well. I think I know his commitment to Israel. I spent a good deal of time with him yesterday talking about my resignation and the reasons for it, and once again I am reaffirmed that he is committed to the security and viability of Israel, and I don't believe that if there's any harsh tone or harsh rhetoric that he is part of it.

[Question] What kind of reception do you think Prime Minister Begin is going to receive?

[Answer] I really don't know, sir.

[Question] Is the Carter administration trying to split support of the American Jewish community for Israel at this time?

[Answer] Well, the consequence of some of the recent actions of this administration not only have not split the American Jewish community but have united the American Jewish community as never before with respect to standing with Israel on questions of security. The American Jewish community speaks with one voice on the arms sales package and we, as American Jews, are against that arms sales package. [end recording]

BANGLADESH

DPRK OFFICIAL DELEGATION CONTINUES VISIT

BK111506Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The visiting North Korean vice president, Mr Kang Yang-uk, visited the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in Dacca today. He toured various departments of the university and evinced keen interest in the teaching methods.

Meanwhile, the visiting DPRK finance minister, Mr Kim Kyong-yon, called on the presidential adviser for planning, Dr M.N. Huda, in Dacca today. Besides discussing matters of mutual interest, the two leaders also held talks on certain possible areas of cooperation and joint ventures between the two countries. Further discussions in this regard would follow at the expert level. They also agreed in principle to expand the areas of cooperation in all fields to the maximum possible extent.

Departs Dacca

BK121608Y Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1330 GMT 12 Mar 78 BK

[Text] DPRK Vice President Kang Yang-uk left Dacca this morning at the end of a 5-day visit to Bangladesh. Among others present at the airport to see him off were Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar, Presidential Advisers Prof Shamsul Huq, Azizul Huq and Abdul Momen, Chief of Naval Satff Rear Adm M.H. Khan, Chief of Air Staff Air Commodore Sadruddin, Deputy Chief of Army Staff Maj Gen H.M. Ershad, members of the diplomatic corps and high-ranking civil and military officers. DPRK citizens residing in Dacca and members of the visiting Pyongyang cultural troupe were also present at the airport.

A smartly turned out contingent drawn from the three services presented a guard of honor to the DPRK vice president.

INDIA

BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN TO VISIT INDIA NEXT WINTER

BK110528Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0522 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, March 11 (AFP)--Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev and Aleksey Kosygin will visit India next winter, according to today's edition of the STATESMEN.

The New Delhi newspaper's diplomatic correspondent said the Soviet president and premier had accepted an invitation made by Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai during his official visit to the USSR last October.

The report said the Soviet Government wanted to make sure that its influence in southern and Southeastern Asia would not be undercut by Chinese initiatives.

The story in the STATESMAN coincided with the visit here of a Chinese delegation headed by former Deputy Foreign Minister Wang Ping-nan. The Chinese were to meet today with Mr. Desai.

The STATESMAN said the Soviet acceptance of Mr. Desai's invitation was relayed by Ivan Arkhipov, a Soviet deputy premier who signed a major industrial cooperation agreement in New Delhi earlier this month.

ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSES REGRET OVER LETTER

BK101521Y Delhi ISI in English 1459 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Mainza Chona of Zambia sent for our acting High Commissioner P.S. Sahai on the evening of March 9 and expressed his sincere regret for the embarrassment his letter in the London TIMES may have caused to our leaders and to our country.

He said that the letter did not reflect the views of the government or the president of Zambia and added that he had great regard for our prime minister and other leaders of the Janata Party.

VISITING PRC GOOD-WILL DELEGATION RECEIVED BY DESAI

BK111309Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that India is willing to improve relations and extend contacts with China. Mr Morarji Desai stated this when the leader of the Chinese good-will delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan called on him in New Delhi today. Mr Wang had talks with Mr Desai for about an hour. He conveyed to the prime minister the warmest regards of the Chinese premier, Mr Hua Kuo-feng.

An official spokesman later told newsmen that the prime minister and Mr Wang reviewed the development of relations in diverse fields between the two countries. The border question also came up briefly. Both Mr Desai and Mr Wang thought that this question should be solved through peaceful negotiations. Mr Wang expressed his confidence that all problems can be solved on the basis of the five principles. The prime minister reciprocated the sentiments expressed by Mr Wang. The atmosphere at the meeting was warm and cordial.

Explaining the friendly attitude of the people and Government of India toward China, Mr Desai requested Mr Wang to convey his best wishes to Premier Hua. They noted that there was a continuity of friendly relations and cooperation between India and China which had existed for more than 2,000 years.

Mr Wang noted that some problems did develop between the two countries but this was only for a short period compared to the long period of cordial and cooperative relations that the two countries have had. Mr Wang mentioned that the warmth of the reception the good-will delegation has received in this country is an index of the attitude of the people and Government of India toward China.

Meets With Gandhi

BK131024Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi had a closed-door meeting with the leader of the Chinese good-will delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, at the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi last evening.

Later, Mrs Gandhi said she had a friendly exchange of views with Mr Wang.

GOVERNMENT, MNF HOLD TALKS ON INSURGENCY IN MIZORAM

BK101644Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The finance minister told the Lok Sabha today that talks between the government and the Mizo National Front representatives are still continuing and there are prospects of bringing the insurgency in Mizoram to a close.

Mr H.M. Patel said that talks, however, cannot come in the way of holding elections. The government is keen to hand over the administration to the elected representatives of the people as soon as possible and intends to hold elections in the union territory in the very near future. He was presenting the Mizoram budget for the year 1978-79 in the house and seeking a vote on account for 5 months for the union territory.

The president of the Mizo National Front, Mr Laldenga, has also expressed the hope that peace would soon return to Mizoram. In a statement issued in New Delhi he described the front leader's discussions with the union home minister as very fruitful. Mr Laldenga said that by a unanimous resolution we have already decided to settle our problems within the constitution and have agreed to bring overground the underground arms and ammunition for handing them over to the government. He announced that he has now requested his headquarters for the implementation of this resolution within a time bound program and hope that permanent peace will soon return to Mizoram.

CONGRESS LEADERS AGAINST MERGER WITH GANDHI'S FACTION

BK120746Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Congress Working Committee met in New Delhi yesterday. The AICC [All-India Congress Committee] general secretary, Mr P.C. Pant, told newsmen that all the speakers who addressed the meeting emphasized the need for preserving the separate identity of the party.

Addressing the meeting, the party president, Mr Swaran Singh, appealed to partymen to continue to oppose concentration of power in a few hands and stressed the need for collective leadership and internal democracy.

Speaking on the recent assembly elections, Mr Swaran Singh said the polling trend was similar to last year's Lok Sabha elections. He conceded that the party's performance in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh was disappointing.

Mr Y.B. Chavan said the main idea behind the party's association with the Congress-I in Maharashtra was to avoid president's rule and prevent the Janata Party from forming the government. Mr Chavan ruled out the merger of the Congress with the Janata Party and said historically the Congress is necessary for the country.

The Congress Working Committee is meeting again today.

NEW MINISTRIES TAKE OFFICE IN ANDHRA PRADESH, MEGHALAYA

BK101321Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The new ministry led by Chief Minister Dr Chenna Reddy in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh has assumed office. Twenty-one members of cabinet rank, 11 ministers of state and 6 parliamentary secretaries have taken the oath of office today in the state capital, Hyderabad.

In the eastern state of Meghalaya, a 10-member coalition ministry led by the chief minister, Mr D.D. Pugh, was sworn in in Shillong today. The governor, Mr L.P. Singh administered the oath of office and secrecy to them.

PAKISTAN

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH OFFICIALS, MAKES STATEMENT

BK101523Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The DPRK vice president called on President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry. He was accompanied by the chief martial law administrator.

This afternoon, Mr Pak Song-chol began formal talks with the chief martial law administrator. They were assisted by their senior aides. The Pakistani side included the advisers Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan, Lt Gen F.A. Chishti, and Mr Agha Shahi; the foreign secretary, Mr Shah Nawaz and the finance secretary, Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan. On the DPRK side was the vice chairman of the Economic Committee, Mr (No Tae-sok) and the ambassador, Mr Chang Hak-myong.

On arrival this morning at the head of the delegation, the DPRK vice president was received at Islamabad airport by the chief martial law administrator. Among those present at the airport to receive the distinguished visitor were advisers, federal secretaries and heads of diplomatic missions.

In a statement at the airport, he said People's Korea wants to strengthen its friendly relations with Pakistan. He said he has brought with him the sentiments of friendship of the Korean people toward the Pakistani people. He said the Korean people value their friendly relations with the Pakistani people and were satisfied with (?their favorable) development in various fields. He said he would discuss with Pakistani leaders international questions of (?mutual concern) and matters relating to the promotion of existing friendly ties between the two countries. He commended the efforts of the Pakistani people to consolidate their national independence and build their national economy under the leadership of Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Holds Talks With Haq

BK101704Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The DPRK vice president, Mr Pak Song-chol, who arrived at the head of a delegation in Islamabad today, had talks with Chief of Army Staff and Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The talks lasted nearly 2 hours.

The CMLA, welcoming the delegation, reiterated Pakistan's support for the peaceful reunification of the Korean people without foreign interference. He also hoped for further strengthening of the friendly ties between Pakistan and the DPRK.

The DPRK vice president, expressing satisfaction at the close friendly relations between the DPRK and Pakistan, reaffirmed his country's desire to further strengthen their relations in the economic and trade fields. He also threw light on the progress achieved by the DPRK people in socioeconomic and industrial fields and reiterated his country's resolve for the peaceful reunification of the Korean people.

Both sides agreed on the meeting of experts of both countries to identify special areas for bilateral cooperation. Talks in this connection will be held between the adviser on planning and coordination, Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan, and the vice chairman of the DPRK Economic Committee, Mr (No Tae-sok) in Rawalpindi tomorrow.

The talks were attended on the Pakistani side by three advisers, Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan, Lt Gen F.A. Chishti and Mr Agha Shahi; the finance secretary, Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan and the foreign secretary, Mr Shah Nawaz.

The DPRK delegation included the vice chairman of the DPRK Economic Committee, Mr (No Tae-sok); the deputy director of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Workers Party, Mr (Yi Wai-song), counsellor Mr (Wu Yang-shang) and Ambassador Mr Chang Hak-myong.

Haq, Pak Banquet Speeches

BK110934Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the peaceful reunification of the Korean people. Speaking at a banquet given by him in honor of the vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Rawalpinoi last night, he said the Korean issue must be resolved on the basis of the UN Charter and resolution. He said Pakistan could not lend its support to any policy which is counter to this principle.

The chief martial law administrator said the people and Government of Pakistan have consistently supported the Korean people in their determination to reunite their country. The solution of the Korean issue was imperative for the sake of lasting peace and stability in the region.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the people of Pakistan greatly admire the Korean people for their relentless struggle for national independence. The friendship and cooperation between them transcended geographical distance and different ideological systems. He wished everlasting friendship between the peoples of Korea and Pakistan.

Replying, the DPRK vice president said the government and the people of his country are greatly encouraged by Pakistan's support for their just struggle for the peaceful reunification of Korea. He expressed appreciation of the independent foreign policy being pursued by Pakistan. He expressed his conviction that friendly relations existing between the two countries would grow and strengthen with the passage of time and that they will be successful in their struggle to realize their common goals and ideals.

Visit Concludes

BK130830Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The DPRK vice president left Islamabad this morning for home after concluding his 4-day visit to Pakistan.

BHUTTO TRIAL JUDGES INTIMIDATED, RECEIVE PHONE THREATS

BK101534Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] A press statement issued by the Lahore High Court says that shots were fired in the air from a car last night outside the bungalows of Mr Justice (Sadrudin Tan), Mr Justice (Aftab Hussain) and Mr Justice Gulbagh Khan. The three judges are members of the full bench considering the Mohammad Ahmad Khan murder case.

The press statement says telephone threats were also received by these judges today. The press statement says that the police authorities have been informed of the incident.

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